$1284^{*} = 1283 + 1$

PELE

The King of Football

Pele is scoring* ...at the age of 70!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab_channel=BrazilianPublicity

Department of Physical Education and Sports

Dr. M.G.R.
EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
University with Graded Autonomy Status
(An ISO 21001 : 2018 Certified Institution)
Periyar E.V.R. High Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai-95. Tamilnadu, India.

mastercard
priceless

PELE

The KING of Football

Compiled by:

Dr S Tubin

Asst Professor, DPES

Prof Dr S Ramalingam

Joint Registrar - Languages

Department of Physical Education and Sports

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PELE
The KING of Football

January 2023

Published by:
Department of Physical Education and Sports
Dr MGR Educational and Research Institute
[Deemed to be University]
Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600 095

Funded by:
Na Subbu Reddiar 100 Educational Trust
AD-13, 5th Street, Anna Nagar West, Chennai - 600 040

9789395054164

Printed at:
DJ Printers
Maduravoyal, Chennai - 600 095

Father of Indian Football

Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhikari

27 Aug 1869 :: 17 Jan 1940

FOREWORD

Prof S Bevinson Perinbaraj MPEd PhD
Retd. Director of Physical Education
Alagappa University, Karaikui – 630 003
&
Former Principal, Dr Siavanthi Aditanar
College of Physical Education
Tiruchendur – 628 215

He is the best player to come out of the best footballing country ever. Edison Arantes do Nascimento, better known to the world as simply "Pele," was a phenomenon the like of which we may never see again.

To bring out a book on the man, who at the age of 17 years (the youngest player in the world cup) scored a hat trick against France in his maiden World Cup match [1958] and also, at the age of 70 years scored his 1284th goal against Argentina is really a Himalayan task. The department of Physical Education and Sports has taken that challenge and published this book: '*PELE – The KING of Football*'. This effort is highly appreciable.

His first goal (in 1958) was voted as one of the best in World Cup history. When he scored his 1000th goal on 19 Sep 1969, the Brazilian government had brought wonderful one million [1000 x 1000 = 1 million] commemorative stamps to honour the event. Several countries also released stamps on that occasion. A web link is provided for the readers to visit and watch this 1000th goal. He played in four world cup matches [1958, 1962, 1966 & 1970] and Brazil was the first country to win the cup thrice and got the honour of retaining Jules Rimet Trophy permanently.

Pele really had no weaknesses. A powerful shot, a fantastic header, excellent dribbling, pinpoint passing, great pace, and, of course, a prolific goal-scoring ability. He was blessed with not only bewitching skills, but also a magical sense of balance and timing, to go along with focus, discipline, and a self-determination that was impossible for anybody else to replicate. Named '*Athlete of the Century*' and '*Player of the Century'*, he was widely regarded as the greatest player to have ever kicked a ball.

Some of the records created by him viz., (1) Youngest World Cup Winner, (2) Brazil's Record Goal Scorer, (3) Most World Cup Assists, (4) Most World Cup Trophies, (5) Youngest World Cup Hat-Trick and (6) Most Hat-Tricks still remain unbroken!

This book, containing 22 chapters, provides a variety of information, details, photos, etc, covering Pele's life, professional career, stamps released, etc. First three chapters cover his 1284th goal, 1000th goal and all 1283 goals with photographs and web links. Readers would enjoy in seeing him – in 100 photos – scoring goals. An exclusive web link is provided where readers may watch some of best Brazilian goals (scored by Pele to Neymar Jr) in FIFA. More than 50 goals were scored by Pele by tackling 2 to 7 opponents single-handed.

Chapters 4, 5 & 6 provide the details of world cup 1958, 1962 and 1970. Here one can get all the intricate details, interesting events, the name of the stadium in which the final was held, number of audiences, dribbling movements, positions of players of both the teams in the final match and photos of some of important and interesting moments in the final match.

Chapter 10 provides the background of Jersey No.10 in the history of football and other interesting features. Also, a list of international players who wore jersey number 10 together with some unknown information. Chapter 14 provides the details of the documentary film "Pele", its reviews and the corresponding web link. Chapter 15 covers one of his famous films [*Escape to Victory*] with the

background of German military. Chapter 19 gives the details of his trip to Calcutta, and the match played at Eden Gardens on 27 Sep 1977 including one photo of Pele playing the match. Chapter 20 provides a very brief and informative history of Football, which is the most popular sport of the world.

Chapter 21 gives a very good information which may be useful to the young generation of the 21st century. Here one can read about the top 20 Brazilian players with some important information about them together with their pictures.

Chapters 17 and 18 offer the current, important and interesting information about the World Cup 2022 at Qatar. The list of 10 stadiums with the brief details together with their photographs is available here. Also, the information about the teams, schedule of matches and the name of stadiums with: capacity, teams playing therein, etc., are provided.

Other information viz., his biography, stamps on him, awards received by him, his quotes (covering his opinions, views, ideas about football and other related areas), etc., are given in the respective chapters.

Wherever necessary, appropriate web links are provided to enable the readers to visit these pages and know more details and information. Book is a great source of information to all football fans, especially present younger generation. I appreciate the authors of the book for their innovative effort in bringing out this book and also, the department of physical education and sports in encouraging the authors.

****

He is the best player to come out of the best footballing country ever. The principal idea here is to introduce PELE to the international football fans, especially younger generation of this century. Of course, it is highly unimaginable task to include the wide range of his talents and profile in a single book.

He is consistently acknowledged throughout the world as 'king of football' by the football community worldwide. His 1000th goal and 1284th goal at the age of 70 are quite appreciable and beyond any one's imagination.

His professional career started in 1956 when he signed for Santos Futebol Clube. In fact, the man who took him to Santos predicted that he would become the greatest player in the world.

At just 17 years of age, he was called up to Brazil's 1958 World Cup squad. At the time he was the youngest player to have ever played at a World Cup. His goal against Wales in the quarter-finals made him the World Cup's youngest ever scorer, and a hat-trick in the semi-finals broke another record - he being the youngest player to have scored a World Cup hat-trick. These records still remain untouched.

He had received many awards from the leading organizations, viz., United Nations, BBC and FIFA. Some of the awards are: Champion of the Century, Citizen of the World & Player of the Century

Deciding the number of chapters and their contents posed the challenge in the preparation of the Book: "PELE – The King of Football". Chapters '1000th Goal' and

'1284 @ 70' give the interesting details about his rare achievement and also, the readers could actually see his action visually by visiting the web links provided therein. Another chapter 'Pele, the KING' features the detailed information about his skill and life-time achievements with the relevant web links and also, several photos of him scoring some famous goals in international tournaments including World Cup matches.

The three chapters, 'World Cup – 1958', 'World Cup – 1962' and 'World Cup – 1970' offer the detailed information about these three world cups, brasil's journey through the process of reaching the finals and his role in the final matches. Readers would see the final matches using the web links provided therein. The chapter 'Jersey No.10' carries the readers to the origin of the jersey and the development to the present form. It also provides a list of players who wore Jersey No.10.

The chapter 'PELE in Stamps' illustrates the history of stamps released by several countries when he scored his 1000th goals and the pictures of various stamps are given. The details of the documentary film "Pele", its reviews and their web links are provided. One of his films [*The Great Escape*] with the background of German military is provided along with the web link. Also, the details [till Sept 2022] about the World Cup 2022 in Qatar would be interesting to the readers. The interesting features [with pictures] of 10 stadiums where the world cup matches were held would be interesting to the readers.

Brief and informative history of Football, which is the most popular sport of the world, is provided. The details of some Top 20 Brazilian players – with their background with pictures are added in the book. His visit to India in 1977 and his play [representing New York Cosmos] against Mohan Bagan on 25 Sep 1977 in Kolkata are also included in the book.

We are confident that the football fans and players of young generation of the 21st century very enthusiastically receive the book and appreciate by reading the same. Any useful suggestions are welcome. This book is uploaded in the internet: https://archive.org/

Dr S Tubin
Asst Prof – Department of Physical Education & Sports
Dr S Ramalingam
Joint Registrar – Languages
AUTHORS

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Please visit:

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pele-Brazilian-athlete

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1284 @ 70!

Pele was interviewed in Brazil and revealed one last dream: scoring the last goal of his career for Brazil.
''if I could do a replay of my life... If I could do my last goal for brazil...
I would like''

At this short film produced by Vivo, Pelé played once again for the national team of Brazil against the eternal rival Argentina. As tribute for him, who scored 1283 times for the brazilians, he had the chance to make the only goal that he never scored.

Watch him to score 1284th goal at the age of 70!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htNuwHhfN6k&ab_channel=BrazilianPublicity

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=515204445213639

1283 GOALS!

Please also visit:

[https://www.quora.com/How-many-goals-did-Pele-score-in-his-career]

Pele's goal tally is one of the most controversial things in football. On one side you have people (including Pele himself) who claim that the goal tally is 1283 goals in 1366 games and the other side claim that only official games should be considered and it's 757 goals in 812 games. While the goals/game ratio is similar for both the values with 0.94 and 0.93 respectively, people still have different views on this.

	Matches	Goals	Ratio
Domestic Tournaments	702	656	0.94
International Tournaments	18	24	1.33
Brazil national football team	92	77	0.84
Official	**812**	**757**	**0.93**
Friendly matches and defunct Tournaments	**554**	**526**	**0.95**
Total	**1366**	**1283**	**0.94**

The official goal count which stands at 757 goals in 812 games isn't disputed but then people tend to claim that they were against weak players mainly because he didn't play for a European club. This is a simple case of judging the past with present standards and it always leads to problems. During the time when Pele played, the Brazilian National Team was a strong force which won 3 World Cups with great players like Garrincha, Jairzinho, Djalma Santos, Didi, Carlos Alberto etc. and all these players played in Brazilian teams like Botafogo, Palmeiras, Corinthinas etc. due to lack of player movement like in present time. While Pele's critics don't hesitate to claim that the above-mentioned players were legendary and even "carried" Pele to his World Cup titles, they claim that the same league in which they all played is a "farmer's league" which just exposes their hypocrisy. Pele played in the league where the best players played and he dominated them which truly shows his greatness. He would've downgraded had he moved to Europe.

Apart from this Pele also scored 77 goals in 92 games for the Brazil NT including 12 goals in 14 games in the World Cups. He also scored 31 goals in 56 games for NYC Cosmos in the USA in the end of his career.

Next comes the controversial part i.e. unofficial goals. If you look at Pele's Santos stats you'd notice that he only played in the Copa Libertadores 3 times winning it 2 times (1962 and 1963). Copa Libertadores is the South American equivalent of the UCL and you'd expect a top player like Pele to atleast feature more times in the competition (Messi has played in 17 editions of the UCL for example). The problem wasn't that Santos didn't qualify for the Copa Libertadores, they pulled out of the competitions to play in tour games.

To understand the whole situation, one must know that even though Brazil and South America in general had a great football tradition, they still lagged behind when it comes to money and Santos realised they'd make a hell of a profit if they toured the world instead of playing in tournaments. The rest of the world didn't get to see the King Pele play in Brazil because of lack of communication back then so whenever Santos toured, they were greeted with huge crowds with people wanting to see the greatest ever in football history.

Pele's haters say that he faced amateur teams and farmers during these unofficial games. So let's see what some farmers who faced him had to say about him.

The reason for the games in the first place was money so you'd have to play the topmost teams with the top players so that people would come to the stadiums and watch. You wouldn't have people come to watch Santos ship 20 goals past a non league side nobody's even heard of. The whole purpose of the tour would be a waste. So Santos did face the top teams wherever they went

Note that these tour games weren't like the pre season friendlies nowadays with low audience, 11 substitutions being made and players just playing for a warm up purpose. Since there was no concept of official and unofficial games back then, these games were competitive with all the regular rules and the strongest teams being put out in order to reign over Santos which was considered the best team in the world and O Rei himself. Crowds of 60,000 people were considered normal for these games and the players always hoped to put out a show.

Now, a credibility of a claim is mainly determined by who accepts it. We agree on the fact that Cristiano Ronaldo is the player with most official goals mainly because IFFHS and RSSSF acknowledge it. While Pele's haters give a sense that only Pele himself cared about his goal tally while the rest of the world couldn't bother less on how many goals some random Brazilian scored, the truth is much different.

First of all it wasn't Pele who counted the goals in the 1st place. It was counted by 2 renowned Brazilian journalists who wanted to preserve his legacy. All goals were noted with date, team he played for, opponent and were recorded well and it also tells us that there was no concept of official and unofficial goals back then.

FIFA themselves acknowledge the goals he's scored. After he scored his 1000th goal against Vasco da Gama on 19th November 1969, he got a diploma signed by then FIFA President Stanley Rous congratulating him on accomplishing the feat. FIFA hasn't given this kind of diploma to any other footballer in history despite

many others claiming to have scored 1000+ goals because of the lack of transparency in the goals. The diploma cannot be revoked because it contains the signature of the highest authority.

UM DIPLOMA À ESPERA DO REI

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

115 Ladbroke Road.
London W.11
PARk 4113

The President

The whole Football World will applaud the remarkable achievement by Edson Arantes Nascimento (Pele) in scoring 1000 goals in International and other representative and club football matches.

This wonderful performance may not be surpassed by any other player for many years and all who have seen him play will wish to join with me in offering sincere congratulations.

Stanley Rous.
Stanley Rous
President F.I.F.A.

FAC-SIMILE DO DIPLOMA QUE A FIFA, ATRAVÉS DE "O GLOBO", ENTREGARÁ À PELÉ

Guinness Book Of World Records also recognises his goals. Pele holds the world record for most career goals by a player with 1283 along with the record of most World Cup titles won by a single player with 3.

1000th Goal!

- The revered Brazil striker Pele scored his 1,000th goal on **19 November, 1969** at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana stadium in a match between his beloved Santos and local outfit Vasco de Gama whose vast ranks of fans gave the iconic No. 10 a standing ovation.

- That goal was a beautifully converted penalty which escaped the grasp of the Vasco goalkeeper, sparking a pitch invasion by the press and culminating in Pele being paraded shoulder-high around the historic stadium by his teammates.

- Swarms of photographers and journalists had been poised pitch side for the moment.

- The goal has etched itself into the Brazilian national consciousness, a deft finish into the bottom right corner, with Pele running to collect the ball and kissing it as he turned away.

- Some 65,157 fans had bought tickets for the Brazilian league match in which Pele scored the landmark goal and which Santos went on to win 2-1. Folklore says there were 80,000 in the stands.

Watch him scoring 1000th GOAL!

https://youtu.be/4BwXXbEDnVY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIRFh_MNXd8&ab_channel=ThisDayInHistory

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2404387446463259

Pele, a national hero after helping Brazil to two World Cup wins in 1958 and 1962, was still just 29 years old [on 19.11.1969] when he broke the 1,000-goal barrier.

[These newspaper articles do end up prove that there was no concept of official and unofficial matches at that time and all matches were treated the same regardless of the purpose.]

La Gazzetta dello Sport (Italy)

La Gazzetta dello Sport

BENVENUTI a Roma pronto per RODRIGUEZ

Domani a Fuorigrotta si gioca puntando al Messico

Noi uno loro ventuno (non nel calcio)

MAZZOLA ritrovato

"È una sfida più che aperta alla fine tireremo le somme„

Pelè quota 1000

RIVA tranquillo "Non esageriamo la forza dei tedeschi!..

Don Bragg (astista)

DA S. SIRO («cruciter» contro la Reggina) IL BILANCIO?

Le ricorrenti crisi del GENOA nascono da fattori economici

MALTEMPO A NAPOLI: LA... NOVITÀ DI IERI

ZOFF: "Sono in forma e poi c'è il pubblico...„

CONRAD e BEAN hanno lasciato la Luna

THE DAILY MIRROR

Mirror

SPORTLIGHT

1,000 for Pele and the keeper knew the score

THE GOALKEEPER who failed to stop it was almost as proud as the man who scored it—for this was Pele's 1,000th goal in top-class football.

It came from a 78th-minute penalty as Santos played Vasco Da Gama in Rio De Janeiro's 150,000-seater Maracana Stadium. And Vasco 'keeper Norberto Andrada whipped off his jersey as the ball went in to reveal a silver shirt—with the figure 1,000 emblazoned across it.

It cost the match—Santos won 2—1—but launched a carnival across Brazil and perhaps saved Norberto from a lynching.

Then Pele — Edson Arantes Do Nascimento to a few, "Black Pearl" to most—pulled on a No. 1,000 shirt. And stopped the match.

Play stopped for eleven minutes as hundreds of fans invaded the pitch and carried Pele shoulder-high round the stadium.

The fans' reaction to his world record-breaking goal tally was typically South American. And even Pele, at twenty-eight a veteran of three World Cup series, reckoned it a shattering experience.

It said afterwards: "It was the first time I ever trembled during a match."

But he's not about to start taking it easy. Talking about next year's World Cup in Mexico, he said: "Now that I have scored 1,000 goals I am more determined than ever to put on a great performance for Brazil."

Pele, who shot to world fame as a 17-year-old in the 1958 Sweden-based World Cup, looks to have set a near-unbeatable record.

The British scoring record of 550 goals is held by former Celtic centre-forward Jimmy McGrory, who played for the Scottish club for fifteen seasons from 1925-25.

He said last night: "Considering how highly Pele is marked, it's a tremendous achievement."

England skipper Bobby Moore said: "No matter what the standard of football, 1,000 goals is a fantastic record. I only hope he doesn't go nearer the 2,000 mark at our expense in Mexico next year."

Pele could make progress in that direction. Brazilian clubs play up to a hundred matches a year, including overseas tours against sometimes mediocre opposition. And all goals are counted.

DENMARK'S unbeaten European middleweight champion Tom Bogs could be in line for a crack at the world title. Champion Nino Benvenuti defends his crown against America's Luis Rodriguez in Rome tomorrow and Danish promoter Mogens Palle wants Bogs to challenge the winner in Copenhagen next summer. Palle says: "I have already negotiated a fight with Benvenuti if he wins. And I have a big money offer for Rodriguez if he takes the title."

DICK TIGER, twice world middle-weight boxing champion and one-time holder of the world light-heavy title, has turned down the chance of a fourth world crown. Bob Foster, reigning cruiserweight champion, agreed to defend his title against Tiger for forty per cent of the "take" instead of his usual £41,000 guarantee. But promoter Willie Gilzenberg said: "Tiger says he'd rather stick to non-title bouts and not get hurt."

edited by RON WILLS

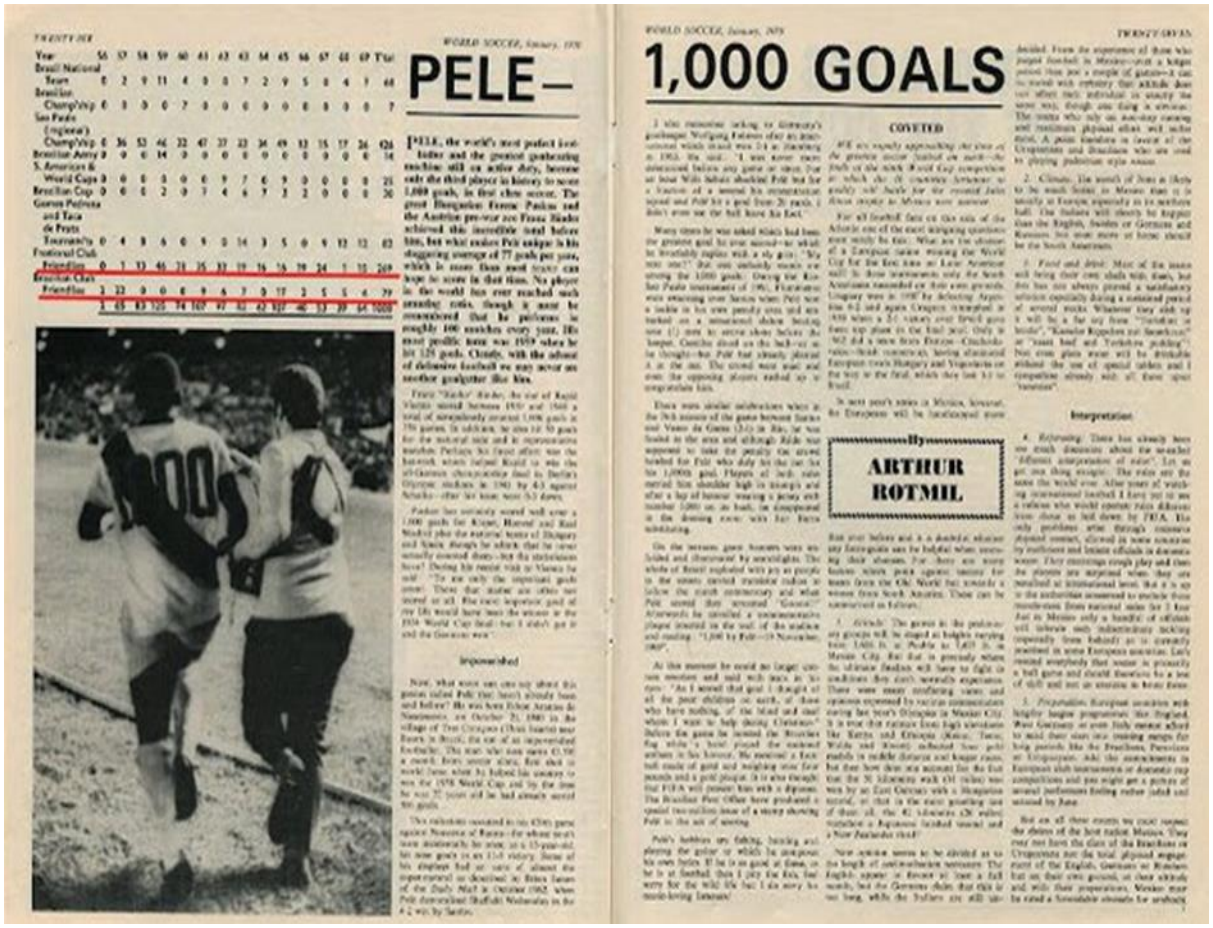
PELE . . . 1,000 goals and the fans go wild.

Skil
Excit
That's the a

Stuck in a dead-end job?
Today's R.A.F. is full of
young men who can wo

KEEP 'EM FLYING

WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE



WORLD SOCCER, January, 1970

PELE—

PELE, the world's most perfect foot-baller and the greatest goalscoring machine still on active duty, became only the third player in history to score 1,000 goals, in first class soccer. The great Hungarian Ferenc Puskas and the Austrian pre-war ace Franz Binder achieved this incredible total before him, but what makes Pele unique is his staggering average of 77 goals per year, which is more than most players can hope to score in their time. No player in the world has ever reached such amazing ratio, though it must be remembered that he performs in roughly 100 matches every year. His most prolific term was 1959 when he hit 126 goals. Clearly, with the advent of defensive football we can never see another goalgetter like him.

Impossible

1,000 GOALS

COVETED

By ARTHUR ROTMIL

Interpretation

France Football Magazine

PELÉ :

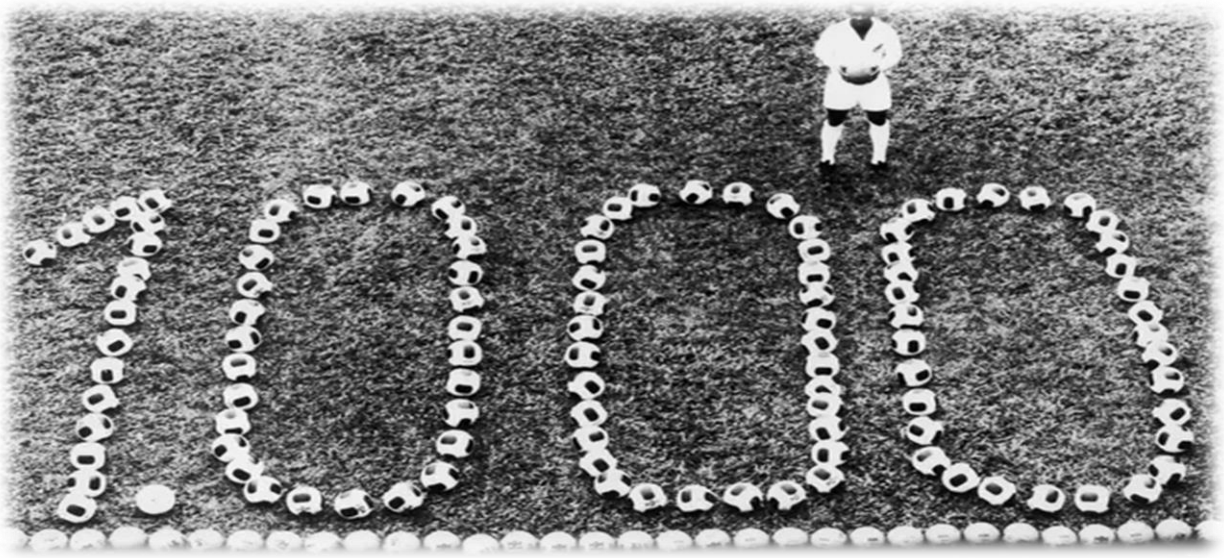
" Je dédie mon 1000e but à tous les attaquants du monde "

LE ROI DU FOOTBALL PARLE à Alain FONTAN

Scored!

On 19 November 1969

Soccer ball with which Pele (Edson Arantes do Nascimento) scored his 1000th goal on display at the Pele Museum in Santos, Brazil Stock Photo – Alamy



1969 was a remarkable year in human history. Two Apollo 12 astronauts walked on the surface of the moon (20 July1969) and the planet's greatest footballer scored his 1,000th goal
(19 November 1969)

Twitter

Pelé on Twitter: "#OnThisDay I dedicated my 1000th goal to the children of Brazil. It's more than just a number. It's the proof that no dream is too big.

Football Soccer Cards

1969 uncut PELE Brazil-only issue commemorative stamps for Pele's 1000th goal.

PELE SCORES 1,000TH GOAL AS 65,000 BRAZILIANS SCREAM

BY LEONARD GREENWOOD
Times Staff Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO—The world's greatest soccer player Edson Arantes do Nascimento, alias Pele, became the first man ever to score 1,000 goals here Wednesday night.

And the giant Maracana Stadium exploded in one of the wildest celebrations in the history of Rio de Janeiro.

More than 65,000 spectators screamed congratulations and the deafening chant "Pele, Pele, Pele," echoed around the stadium. Thousands of firecrackers exploded and tons of colored papers streamed from the stands in the warm summer night.

And in the middle of the field the young Brazilian hero bent his head and sobbed until his shoulders shook.

The goal came from a penalty with only five minutes to go before the end of one of the most frustrating games Pele had ever played.

Missed 10 Times

Ten times Pele had shot at the goal only to see it either deflected by the opposing Vasco da Gama goalkeeper Norberto Andrada or watch it sail over the crossbar.

In the tide of emotion, the game was delayed until after Wilson Simonal, Brazil's top popular singer, had led the crowd in a song specially written for the occasion.

Pele was escorted to a battery of microphones babbling almost incoherently with joy but he finally blurted out "Thanks be to God and thank you all. Thank you everybody."

As Pele was mobbed in the dressing rooms, the Santos-Vasco da Gama

Pele

game for the Interstate Cup ended 2-1 in favor of Pele's club.

No sooner had the leather stopped at the net than a swarm of reporters, photographers and fans swirled around Pele.

All Brazil and millions of soccer fans throughout the world had waited for that goal. Pele is the most idolized sportsman in history and the last few weeks as he approached the magic figure the suspense in Brazil has been almost unbearable.

The celebrations, in the streets and at official functions, will last for weeks. Pele will be showered with gifts.

In Salvador last weekend the people of the state of Bahia were so confident he would reach his target in their city they had planned a carnival in which Pele would lead a procession through the city to the ancient church of Nossa Senhora do Bonfim where he would offer his right foot to the church. But no goals were scored.

Coach Mazzie, who took an M.A. in the United States in athletics and physical fitness, said that "in American sports terms, Pele is Mickey Mantle, Sandy Koufax, Arnold Palmer and Lew Alcindor all rolled into one."

Quiet Man

Despite the adulation of millions he remains quiet and has many of the friends he had years ago. He has a quiet humor.

"One day we went to play in a small town and Pele's car broke down," said coach Mazzei. "We waited nearly two hours and finally he and two other players — also Negroes — walked into town. I asked Pele why he didn't thumb a lift and he said 'who would give a lift to three Negroes at night on a lonely road?' "

With only a few hours to go, Pele said in his hotel room the day he scored the 1,000th goal would be the greatest day of his professional life.

"Not the greatest day of your life," I asked.

"No," he said. "I love football and I wouldn't choose any other career. But there are other things in life, more private, more important.

"One of these was the day I got married. The other was when my daughter was born three years ago.

"I hope one day to have a son. You ask about great days," he said with a big smile.

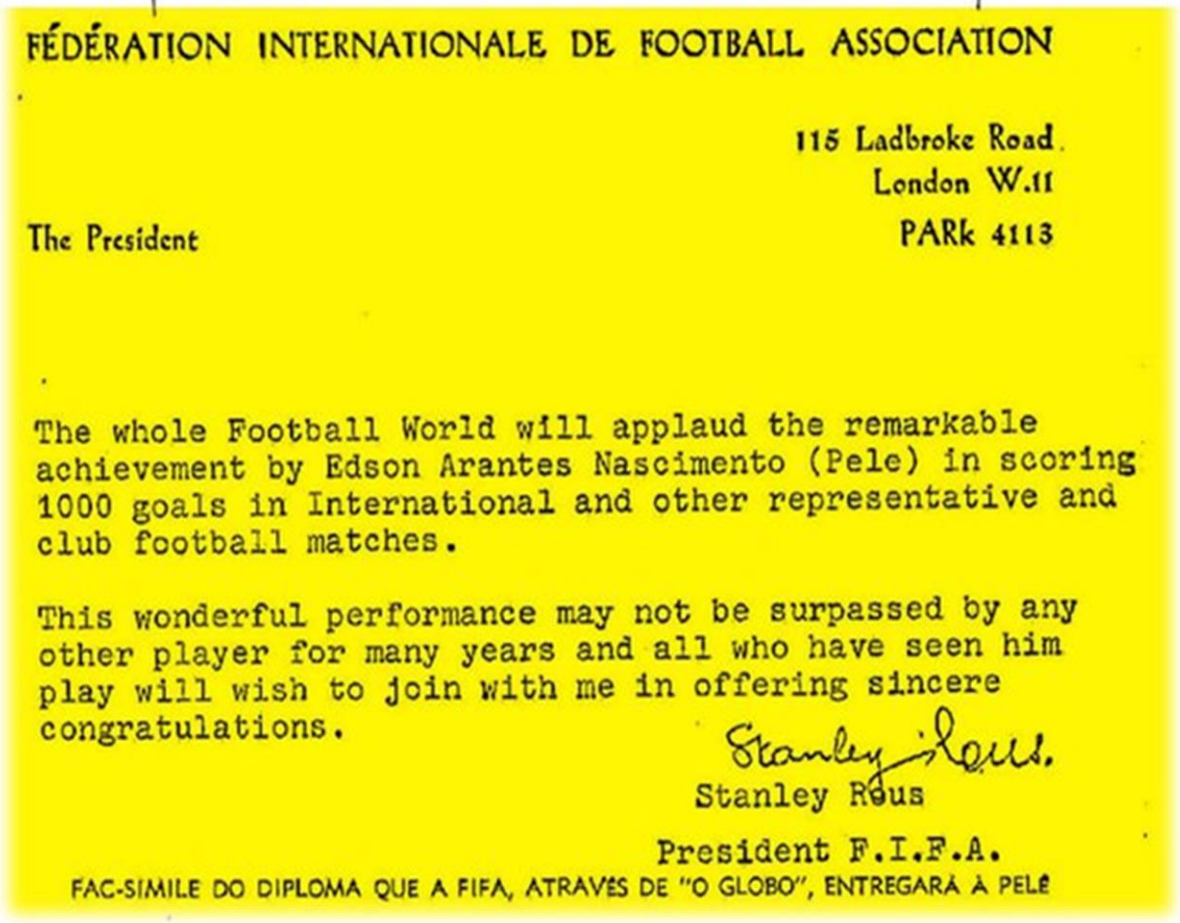
"The day I have a son that I can teach to play football, that will be a day!"

MEN
If You Are Single
Call 653-3553
For Recorded Message

Los Angeles Times (USA)

These newspaper articles do end up prove that there was no concept of official and unofficial matches at that time and all matches were treated the same regardless of the purpose.

UM DIPLOMA À ESPERA DO REI



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

115 Ladbroke Road.
London W.11
PARk 4113

The President

The whole Football World will applaud the remarkable achievement by Edson Arantes Nascimento (Pele) in scoring 1000 goals in International and other representative and club football matches.

This wonderful performance may not be surpassed by any other player for many years and all who have seen him play will wish to join with me in offering sincere congratulations.

Stanley Rous.

Stanley Rous
President F.I.F.A.

FAC-SIMILE DO DIPLOMA QUE A FIFA, ATRAVÉS DE "O GLOBO", ENTREGARÁ À PELÉ

FIFA themselves acknowledge the goals he's scored. After he scored his 1000th goal against Vasco da Gama on 19th November 1969, he got a diploma signed by then FIFA President Stanley Rous congratulating him on accomplishing the feat. FIFA hasn't given this kind of diploma to any other footballer in history despite many others claiming to have scored 1000+ goals because of the lack of transparency in the goals. The diploma cannot be revoked because it contains the signature of the highest authority.

Guinness Book Of World Records also recognises his goals. Pele holds the world record for most career goals by a player with 1283 along with the record of most World Cup titles won by a single player with 3.

Pele, the KING

Pele wasn't just a prolific scorer of goals, but a prolific scorer of wonder goals. He netted 12 overall at the FIFA World Cup across Sweden 1958, Chile 1962 and Mexico 1970.

Watch FIVE goals:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUTRZGCiiFs&ab_channel=FIFA

A true icon of world football, Pelé captured the heart of fans across the globe. From dazzling in his first FIFA World Cup as 17 year old, to lifting the trophy in Mexico in 1970, his skill and quality were plain to see. He would end his career with three FIFA World Cup winners' medals.

About PELE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-CS169akqU&ab_channel=FIFA

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pele-Brazilian-athlete

https://www.sundayobserver.lk/2022/09/25/sports/king-football-and-player-century

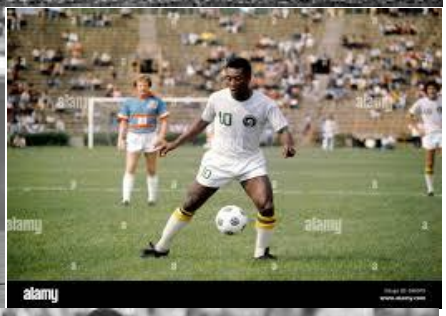
Here are 7 records set by Pele that still haven't been broken

1. **Youngest World Cup Winner**
2. **Brazil's Record Goal Scorer**
3. **Most World Cup Assists**
4. **Most World Cup Trophies**
5. **Youngest World Cup Hat-Trick**
6. **Most Hat-Tricks**
7. **MOST BALLON D'ORS**

Pele never won the Ballon d'Or, it was only open to European players up until 1995, and only became available to players playing outside of Europe altogether in 2007. Well, that is some excellent football knowledge, and I commend you for that, but there was a 2016 re-evaluation of the award that some of you may have missed. In 2016, to celebrate the Ballon d'Or turning 60, France Football decided to go back and look at who would have won the most prestigious individual award in football had it been a global award since its inception. They decided that in 12 of the 39 years before non-Europeans became eligible, the winners would have been different.

The 12 new winners included Romario, Mario Kempes, Garrincha, Diego Maradona twice, and Pele seven times. Seven different players won the Ballon d'Or in 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1970, the seven years in which Pele was elected as the would-be new winner, including the likes of Alfredo di Stefano, Denis Law and Gerd Muller. As I'm sure most of you are aware, Lionel Messi is the current Ballon d'Or record holder having won the award six times, one fewer than France Football awarded Pele in 2016. It is a distinct possibility that Messi will add to his six Ballon d'Ors, and he really ought to have won at least seven if not more already, but for the time being, taking into account the new winners, no one has been chosen by France Football more times than Pele.

Pele plays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800F
Pelé - Edson Arantes do Nascimento

Sports Illustrated
PELE'S TRIUMPHANT DEBUT
dreamstime.com
PELE
THE KING OF
FOOTBALL

www.wildfilmsindia.com
P.A.F.C
S.F.C
USA

TOP 5
PELÉ MOVES
TOP 10
IMPOSSIBLE
goals
KING PELE
BEST HIGHLIGHTS
Play football with PELÉ

TIME
PELÉ
10

AON

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10

10

Pelé

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CAMPEAO PAULISTA
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
HUBLO

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1970
FINAL
FOREVER
sportco
Pelé
WORLD CUP HEROES

World Cup <> 1958

SWEDEN

[June 08 - June 29]

Factual Information

- ✓ **Date**: June 8 – June 29, 1958
- ✓ **Final Score**: Sweden – Brazil 2-5
- ✓ **3rd place**: West Germany – France 3-6
- ✓ **Teams**: 16
- ✓ **Stadiums**: 12
- ✓ **Host cities**: 12
- ✓ **Matches played**: 35
- ✓ **Goals**: 126
- ✓ **Attendance**: 919,580
- ✓ **Top scorer**: Just Fontaine (France) (13 goals)

Major Results

TEAM	GOALS	TEAM
Quarter Finals		
Germany FR	1 - 0	Yugoslavia
Sweden	2 – 0	Soviet Union
Brazil	1 – 0	Wales
France	4 - 0	Northern Ireland
Semi Finals		
Brazil	5 – 0	France
Sweden	3 - 1	Germany FR
Match for THIRD Place		
France	6 - 3	Germany FR
FINAL		
Brazil	5 - 2	Sweden

The long, sun-kissed days of a Swedish summer provided a golden backdrop to Brazil's first FIFA World Cup triumph in 1958, the year that a 17-year-old called Pele announced his presence to football fans around the globe.

With a newfound tactical organization and two supreme attacking talents in Pele and Garrincha, Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in the Final at the Rasunda Stadium to become the first team to capture the trophy on a different continent.

- Youngest player to score a goal in the World Cup
- Youngest player to score a hat-trick in the World Cup
- Youngest player to score two goals in the FINAL in the World Cup

Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1958

Brazil v. Sweden

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VExHcZ3Ia4M&ab_channel=FootballNacy

Attendance > 49,737

BRASIL

Gilmar
Djalma Santos
Nilton Santos
Bellini
Zito
Orlando Peranha
Garrincha
Didi
Pelé
Zagallo
Vavá
Simonsson
Hamrin
Gren
Liedholm
Skoglund
Gustavsson
Parling
Axbom
Bergmark
Børjesson
Svensson

World Cup 1958

Brazil's First Title and Rise of The King

Pelé was just a seventeen-year-old boy and practically unknown when he arrived in Sweden to play in the **1958 World Cup**.

However, Brazil's 5-2 convincing win over the hosts in the final and Pelé's outstanding performance, playing alongside another football genius, Garrincha, were enough to draw the world's attention to the player that would later be crowned the "Athlete of the Century."

Pele with the Trophy

The **1958 FIFA World Cup Final** took place in Råsunda Stadium, Solna (near Stockholm), Sweden on 29 June 1958 to determine the champion of the 1958 FIFA World Cup. Brazil won the World Cup by defeating Sweden, the host country, and thus won their first World Cup title.

Background

Since both teams wore a yellow kit as their first choice, a draw was arranged in order to decide which team would use its regular strip. Brazil boycotted the draw, thus making Sweden winner, and forcing Brazil to find another color to wear. Initially, Brazil was going to wear white, but this idea was rejected when the players were visibly frightened by the idea, recalling their loss in 1950. Eventually the staff went on to buy 22 blue T-shirts and sewed the Brazilian emblem.

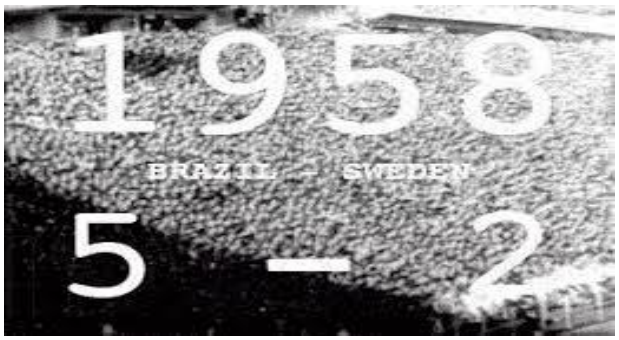
Summary

Sweden took the lead after only 4 minutes after an excellent finish by captain Nils Liedholm. The lead did not last long, however, as Vavá equalised just 5 minutes later. On 32 minutes, Vavá scored a similar goal to his first to give Brazil a lead 2–1 at the break. 10 minutes into the second half, Brazil went further in front thanks to a brilliant goal scored by Pelé. He took control of the ball inside the penalty area, chipped the ball over the defender then smashed it past a helpless Kalle Svensson. Halfway through the second half Brazil went 4-1 up with a goal scored by Mário Zagallo. Simonsson pulled one back for Sweden with 10 minutes remaining but it was far too late. Pelé sealed the 5–2 victory for Brazil with a headed goal in stoppage time.

Some selected Pictures

TELEFUNKEN

10


1958
BRAZIL
SWEDEN
5 — 2

STIL OCH

World Cup <> 1962

CHILE

[May 31 - June 17]

Factual Information

- **Date**: 31 May – 17 June 1962
- **1962 World Cup Final**: Brazil – Czechoslovakia 3-1
- **3rd place**: Chile – Yugoslavia 1-0
- **Teams**: 16
- **Stadiums**: 4
- **Host cities:** 4
- **Matches played**: 32
- **Goals**: 89
- **Attendance:** 899,074
- **Top scorers**: **Garrincha** (Brazil), Vavá (Brazil), Leonel Sánchez (Chile), Dražan Jerković (Yugoslavia), Flórián Albert (Hungary), Valentin Ivanov (Soviet Union) (4 goals)

Major Results

TEAM	GOALS	TEAM
Quarter Finals		
Chile	2 - 1	Soviet Union
Czechoslovakia	1 - 0	Hungary
Yugoslavia	1 - 0	Germany FR
Brazil	3 -1	England
Semi Finals		
Czechoslovakia	3 - 1	Yugoslavia
Brazil	4 - 2	Chile
Match for THIRD Place		
Chile	1 – 0	Yugoslavia
FINAL		
Brazil	3 - 1	Czechoslovakia

Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1970

Brazil v. Czechoslovakia

https://www.tokyvideo.com/video/brazil-vs-czechoslovakia-1962-world-cup-final-full-match

Attendance > 68,679

The 1962 World Cup Final was held on June 17, 1962 at the National Stadium in Santiago, Chile. The finalists were Brazil and Czechoslovakia, who faced each other in a single 90-minute match that Brazil won 3-1, becoming World Champions for the second time in its history. As a fact, since this World Cup, no other team has managed to win it twice in a row, only one, besides Brazil (1958 and 1962), has done so, but it was before that, Italy in 1934 and 1938.

BRASIL

Gilmar
Djalma Santos
Mauro
Zozimo
Nilton Santos
Garrincha
Zito
Didi
Amarildo
Vavá
Zagallo
Kadraba
Scherer
Jelinek
Masopust
Kvasnak
Pospichal
Tichy
Pluskal
Popluhar
Novak
Schrojf

Summary

After 15 minutes, Brazil again found themselves a goal behind in the World Cup final, as a long ball from Tomáš Pospíchal was latched onto by Josef Masopust to put Czechoslovakia 1–0 ahead. However, just like the previous final four years earlier, Brazil soon hit back, equalising two minutes later through Amarildo after an error by the previously flawless Czechoslovak goalkeeper Viliam Schrojf. The Brazilians did not stop there and with goals from Zito and Vavá (another Schrojf error) midway through the second half, the Czechoslovaks could not get back into the game, with the match ending 3–1 to Brazil.

Some selected Pictures

World Cup <> 1970

M E X I C O

[May 31 - June 21]

Factual Information

- ✓ **Date**: May 31 – June 21, 1958
- ✓ **Final Score**: Brazil – Italy 4 -1
- ✓ **3rd place**: Germany FR – Uruguay 1 - 0
- ✓ **Teams**: 16
- ✓ **Stadiums**: 5
- ✓ **Host cities**: 5
- ✓ **Matches played**: 32
- ✓ **Goals**: 95
- ✓ **Attendance**: 1,673,975
- ✓ **Top scorers**: Gerd Muller 10 (Germany), Jairzinho 7 (Brazil), Teofilo Cubillas 5 (Peru), Pele 4 (Brazil)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4pGASQz74k&ab_channel=ClassicFootball

Major Results

TEAM	GOALS	TEAM
Quarter Finals		
Uruguay	1 - 0	Soviet Union
Brazil	4 - 2	Peru
Germany FR	3 - 2	England
Italy	4 - 1	Mexico
Semi Finals		
Brazil	3 - 1	Uruguay
Italy	4 - 3	Germany FR
Match for THIRD Place		
Germany FR	1 - 0	Uruguay
FINAL		
Brazil	4 - 1	Italy

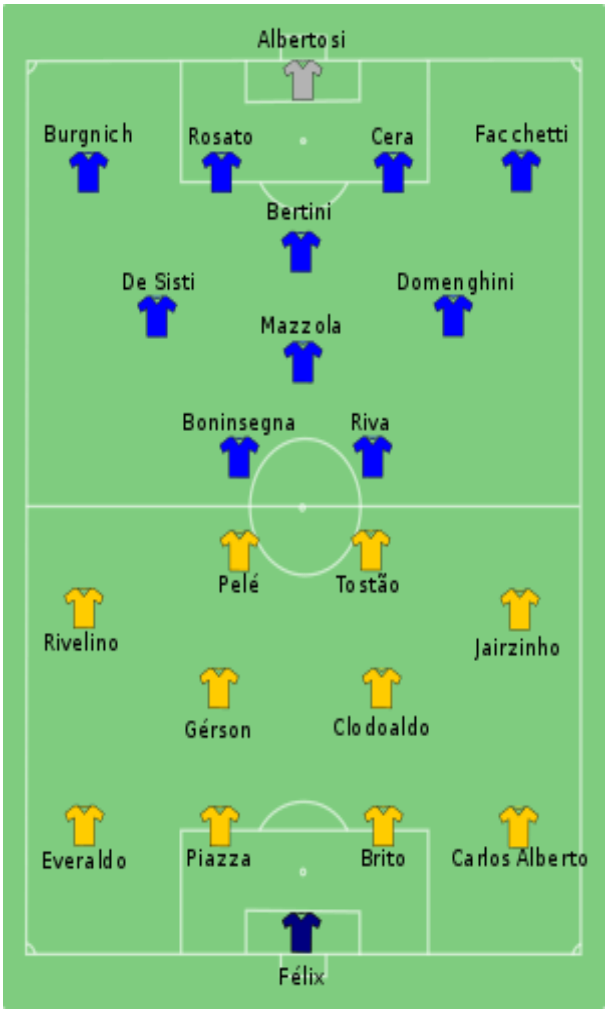
Watch the FINAL match in the World Cup 1970

Brazil v. Italy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GomTORLZcWw&ab_channel=BitcoinMaxiZA

Attendance > 107,412

With this third win after their 1958 and 1962 World Cup victories, Brazil became the world's most successful national football team at that time, surpassing both Italy and Uruguay, who each had two championships. The third title earned Brazil the right to retain the *Jules Rimet Trophy* permanently; it was stolen in 1983 while on display in Rio de Janeiro and never recovered. 38-year-old Brazilian coach Mário Zagallo became the first footballer to win the World Cup as a player (1958, 1962) and a coach, as well the second youngest coach to win a World Cup, after Alberto Suppici in 1930. Pelé ended his World Cup playing career as the competition's first three-time winner.


Albertosi
Burgnich
Rosato
Cera
Facchetti
Bertini
De Sisti
Domenghini
Mazzola
Boninsegna
Riva
Pelé
Tostão
Rivelino
Jairzinho
Gérson
Clodoaldo
Everaldo
Piazza
Brito
Carlos Alberto
Félix

Summary

Brazil struck first, with Pelé heading in a cross by Rivellino at the 18th minute. Roberto Boninsegna equalized for Italy after a blunder in the Brazilian defence. In the second half, Brazil's firepower and creativity was too much for an Italian side that clung to their cautious defensive system. Gérson fired in a powerful shot for the second goal, and then helped provide the third, with a long free kick to Pelé who headed down into the path of the onrushing Jairzinho. Pelé capped his superb performance by drawing the Italian defence in the centre and feeding captain Carlos Alberto on the right flank for the final score. Carlos Alberto's goal, after a series of moves by the Brazilian team from the left to the centre, is considered one of the greatest goals ever scored in the history of the tournament.

A total of seven outfield players from Brazil passed the ball until captain Carlos Alberto hammered the ball into the corner of the Italian goal following a pass across the Italian penalty area from Pelé, prompted by Tostão, who, with his back to the goal, told Pelé that Alberto was steaming in on the right flank. Tostão started the move five yards from the left of the Brazilian penalty area, then ran the length of the field to the Italian box without touching the ball again to tell Pelé to lay it off for Alberto. The players involved in the passes in order were Tostão, Brito, Clodoaldo, Pelé and Gérson. Clodoaldo beat four Italian players in his own half before passing to Rivellino who hit a perfect pass down the wing to Jairzinho. Jairzinho crossed from the wing to the centre of the box to Pelé who held the ball up to play a pass for Alberto to smash it home. The only outfield players not involved in the move were Everaldo and Piazza. In 2002, the UK public voted the goal as number 36 in the list of the 100 Greatest Sporting Moments.

Some selected Pictures

PHILCO
16
alamy

tokyvideo.
WORLD CUP
FINALS

Brazil 4 - 1 Italy
FIFA
World Cup 1970
FINAL
Football's Great

BUIN
Aral
Aral

Brazil 1970

BRAZIL:

GK	**1**	Félix
DF	**4**	Carlos Alberto (c)
DF	**3**	Piazza
DF	**2**	Brito
DF	**16**	Everaldo
MF	**5**	Clodoaldo
MF	**8**	Gérson
MF	**7**	Jairzinho
FW	**9**	Tostão
FW	**10**	Pelé
FW	**11**	Rivelino

Substitutions:

MF	**18**	Caju

Manager:
Mário Zagallo

alamy

BRASIL

1970-2022: Ranking Every Official FIFA World Cup Ball of the Adidas Era

Looking back on the history of the FIFA World Cup, there is no doubt that the event has provided us with some of the most iconic moments in the sport. Whatever memories you hold of those tournaments, you are likely to associate with a certain football.

Today Adidas released images of the new World Cup ball, the Al Rihla, which will be used later this year for the Qatar. There have been some cracking official World Cup balls over the years and we have tried to rank them.

We are only including balls from 1970 onwards, for a few of reasons. Firstly, that is the year an Adidas ball was used for the first time, with the German manufacturer supplying every tournament since.

Before this point, various balls were used in the same tournament. There was often an official ball, always sourced from within the host country, but teams would sometimes use their
own equipment in their games.

Barney Corkhill

Accomplished and self-motivated sports writer and editor with more than 10 years' experience working in a fast-paced breaking news environment.

Skilled at managing people, working in a team or individually and forging long-term relationships. I have covered some of the biggest live events in sport, from Premier League matches to the Rugby World Cup final and the Rio Paralympics to the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Experienced interviewer of some of the biggest sports stars on the planet and skilled in Search Engine Optimisation (SEO), sports reporting, social media strategies and more.

Barney Corkhill begins yet another new series called **'A Tribute To...'** where he looks at legends of the game, past and present, explaining what makes them legends.

He starts with the biggest legend of them all.

The King of football: PELE

He is the best player to come out of the best footballing country ever. Edison Arantes do Nascimento, better known to the world as

simply "Pele," was a phenomenon the like of which we may never see again.

His professional career started in 1956 when he signed for Santos Futebol Clube. He began playing for them at just 15-years-old, and even then people could tell that this was a special player. In fact, the man who took him to Santos predicted that he would become the greatest player in the world.

He scored on his debut for Santos and by the end of his first season in Brazil, he was the league's top scorer, at just 16 years of age.

It was also at this age that Pele was first called up to the Brazilian National squad. Again, he scored in his debut.

At just 17 years of age, he was called up to Brazil's 1958 World Cup squad. At the time he was the youngest player to have ever played at a World Cup. His goal against Wales in the quarter-finals made him the World Cup's youngest ever scorer, and a hat-trick in the semi-finals broke another record—him being the youngest player to have scored a World Cup hat-trick.

Another record was broken when he was the youngest player ever to play in a World Cup final, and yet another one when he scored twice in that final, helping his country to a 5-2 victory over Sweden. His first goal was voted one of the best in World Cup history.

So, by the age of 17 he had been top scorer of his domestic league and won a World Cup. The interest from big clubs worldwide was inevitable. However, the government of Brazil declared him an "official national treasure" to prevent him moving, such was his importance.

The 1962 World Cup was not as successful for Pele. He injured himself early on in the tournament, and so played no further part in the victorious Brazil side. However, in 2007, FIFA announced that Pele

would be awarded a World Cup winners medal for that tournament. That gave him his second World Cup success at just 21.

The 1966 World Cup was an even worse one for Pele. Brazil were often kicked off the park, and they went out in the first round, after which Pele expressed his desire never to play in a World Cup again.

In 1969, still playing for Santos, Pele scored his 1000th goal in all competitions. This was unprecedented, especially for a player playing in the play-maker position. His goals to games ratio was quite remarkable. 1281 goals in 1363 games is unlikely ever to be beaten.

In 1970 Pele went back on his promise never to play in a World Cup again, and helped Brazil to win the tournament with perhaps the greatest team to ever play football. One particularly memorable moment for Pele at this World Cup was that save by Gordon Banks, which Pele himself admits was the greatest save he had ever seen.

After leaving Santos in 1974, he played in the United States for a while, but he was long passed his heyday.

Pele is the only player to have won three World Cups, and only one of two to have scored in four separate World Cups.

He really had no weaknesses. A powerful shot, a fantastic header, excellent dribbling, pinpoint passing, great pace, and, of course, a prolific goal-scoring ability.

Named **Athlete of the Century** and **Player of the Century**, and widely regarded as the greatest player to have ever kicked a ball, this has been a tribute to Pele.

Watch him play!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7OIvaEOvu8&ab_channel=FootballGOD

(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)(😊)

Pele's Quotes

Pele, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, born 23 October 1940 is a retired Brazilian footballer. In 1999, he was voted *World Player of the Century* by the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS). During the same year, Pelé was elected *Athlete of the Century* by the IOC, and Time named him in their list of *100 most influential people of the 20th century*.
Here are some influential Pele quotes.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"A penalty is a cowardly way to score."

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

"Everything is practice."

"I don't believe there is such a thing as a 'born' soccer player. Perhaps you are born with certain skills and talents, but quite frankly it seems impossible to me that one is actually born to be an ace soccer player"

"If you are first, you are first. If you are second, you are nothing."

"The more difficult the victory, the greater the happiness in winning."

"The ambition should always be to play an elegant game."
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"Enthusiasm is everything. It must be taught and vibrating like a guitar string."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Everything on earth is a game. A passing thing. We all end up dead. We all end up the same, don't we?"

"When I was minister of sport in Brazil, I tried to bring in a law that would make the chairmen of clubs reveal their accounts like other businesses. It was turned down, but I think it is an important story that will make a good film."

"You must respect people and work hard to be in shape. And I used to train very hard. When the others players went to the beach after training, I was there kicking the ball."

"I played for Santos at 16, and we had an excellent team, so it helped a lot. And then I played for Brazil at the Maracana against Argentina. So, I get more experience. This was one year before the World Cup, and it made a lot of difference."

"I always had a philosophy which I got from my father. He used to say, 'Listen. God gave to you the gift to play football. This is your gift from God. If you take care of your health, if you are in good shape all the time, with your gift from God no one will stop you, but you must be prepared."

"The bicycle kick is not easy to do. I scored 1,283 goals, and only two or three were bicycle kicks."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

"Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you lose."

"Great teams are not made up of many well-rounded players. Great teams are made up of a variety of players, each having their own strengths."

"There is always someone out there getting better than you
by training harder than you."

"I am constantly being asked about individuals. The only way to win is as a team. Football is not about one or two- or three-star players."

"Sport is something that is very inspirational for young people."

"I've come to accept that the life of a frontrunner is a hard one, that he will suffer more injuries than most men and that many of these injuries will not be accidental."

"If I pass away one day, I am happy because I tried to do my best. My sport allowed me to do so much because it's the biggest sport in the world."

"I have to trust something that gives me power; I have to believe in something, but in my career I have a lot of moments I cannot explain with God."

"I represent Brazil all over the world. Wherever I go I have to do my best, to not disappoint the Brazilian people. And that I've done."

"No individual can win a game by himself."

"I was born to play football, just like Beethoven was born to write music and Michelangelo was born to paint."

"A lot of people, when a guy scores a lot of goals, think, 'He's a great player', because a goal is very important, but a great player is a player who can do everything on the field. He can do assists, encourage his colleagues, give them confidence to go forward. It is someone who, when a team does not do well, becomes one of the leaders."

"Considerable research on successful soccer players and their developmental history, affirms that a good percentage of them have spent time in isolation, working on soccer skills."

"If you ever want to be a decent player, you have to be able to use both feet without stopping to think about it."

"The first World Cup I remember was in the 1950 when I was 9 or 10 years old. My father was a soccer player, and there was a big party, and when Brazil lost to Uruguay, I saw my father crying."

"Success isn't determined by how many times you win, but by how you play the week after you lose."

"I don't believe there is such a thing as a 'born' soccer player. Perhaps you are born with certain skills and talents, but quite frankly it seems impossible to me that one is actually born to be an ace soccer player"

"I think I've always had the shots. But in the past, I've suffered too many mental lapses. Now, I'm starting to get away from that and my mental discipline and commitment to the game are much better. I think I'm really taking a good look at the big picture. That's the difference between being around for the final or watching the final from my sofa at home."

"The World Cup is a very complicated tournament - six games, seven if you make it to the final - and maybe if you lose one game you're out, even if you're the best."

"Great genetics are not necessarily a precursor for success in the game. Brazilian Legend PelÃ© has often said that soccer stars are not born. Without proper soccer training a player will never reach his full potential. It is true that great speed would benefit someone who plays as a winger but would not be as useful for a goalkeeper. The greatest advantage of soccer is that it is not as discriminating as basketball or volleyball. There are no limitations when it comes to physique and it all comes down to individual soccer skills."

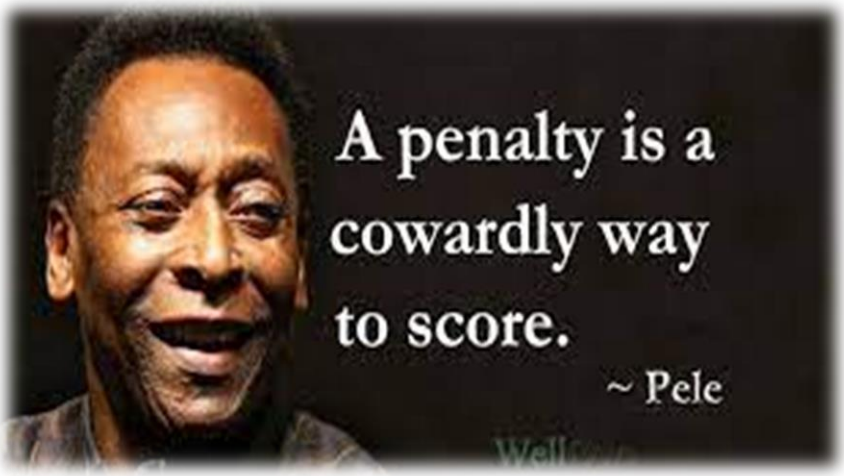
"At 17, I already had responsibility because I took care of my family, but in the football I was young; I wasn't experienced or the captain – I was just in the team."

If you don't give education to people, it is easy to manipulate them.

"Everybody knows my life. I won a lot of tournaments and scored more than 1,000 goals, won three World Cups but I could not play in Olympic Games."

"When you play against dirty players or very tough players, it's easy to escape because you know what they're going to do. But when the player is tough but intelligent, it's much more difficult."

😊 😊 😊 😊 😊



Jersey No. 10

The 10 Best Players to have worn the NO.10 JERSEY

Source:
https://sportslumo.com/football/famous-players-who-wore-the-no-10-jersey-in-football/

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From Lionel Messi to Pele, the No.10 jersey has an historical significance in the game. Check out the players who donned this famous jersey.

Each jersey number has its own significance in a player's minds, but some numbers mean more to the fans than the others. The No. 10 is one such jersey. Many footballing greats have donned the legendary No.10 on their back while creating history. Modern day football fans particularly associate the jersey number with one playing legend – Lionel Messi. There great, Ronaldinho, donned it before Messi with Barcelona. If we do a little more digging, a host of other superstars have carried this number on their back as well.

Let's have a LIST of players who did justice to the No.10 Jersey:

Pele

Arguably the greatest footballer of all-time, Pele broke every record possible at international level. Making his club debut at the age of 15 for Santos and breaking into Brazil national team at 16, the forward was one of the first few players to bring the spotlight on the famous No.10 jersey.

Among his most significant achievements were the three World Cups he won in 1958, 1962 and 1970. The gifted attacker has netted 77 times for Brazil and will always be remembered for his all-action attacking game. Be it passing, crossing, dribbling, finishing, there was not a thing Pele could not do.

Diego Maradona

Maradona was the next player to challenge Pele's "the greatest" footballer title. The Argentine attacker is one of the best dribblers football has ever seen. He his slick with his movement and manoeuvred past players with ease. His vision, passing range, late sprints and a lethal finish made him one of the best players to ever wear the No.10 jersey.

Among the four World Cups Maradona played, he is fondly remembered for his stupendous performance in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico. He captained Argentina and led them to victory over West Germany in the final. In the tournament where he won the Golden Ball, Maradona had two most telling moments of his career – "Hand of God" goal and the "Goal of the Century", where he dribbled for 60 metres and beat five English players to put the ball in the net.

Zinedine Zidane

One of the greatest attacking midfielders of all-time, Zidane was simply too hot to handle as a player. The elite playmaker made noticeable contributions for both France and Real Madrid. None more than the two goals he scored in the 1998 World Cup final against the all-conquering Brazil team.

His other illustrious moment came in the 2002 Champions League final, scoring a memorable left-footed volley winner against Bayer Leverkusen from the edge of the penalty box. Known for his elegance with the ball at his feet, Zidane was a technically gifted player who was at the heart of every good thing is club and country did. He is a fitting player to have donned the famous old jersey.

Ronaldinho

A two time FIFA World Player of the Year, Ronaldinho had the world at his feet and made the opposition defenders dance to his tune in his Barcelona days. He has the honour of

being one of the few players to get a standing ovation at their rivals Real Madrid's home ground – Santiago Bernabeu.

He was instrumental in Barcelona winning their first Champions League title (2006) in 14 years. Ronaldinho was also an integral part of the 2002 World Cup winning team, where he assisted Rivaldo for Brazil's equaliser and scored the famous free-kick goal from 40 yards against England in the quarterfinal. He made football look easy with his mesmerizing skills on the ball.

Lionel Messi

Messi inherited the No.10 jersey from Ronaldinho at Barcelona after the 2007-08 season. He took the game to new heights as he typified the rise of Barcelona under Pep Guardiola. The all-conquering Spanish side revolutionized the way football was played.

Messi's personal success was synonymous with Barcelona dominating world football. He has won a record six Ballon d'Or awards and a further six European Golden Shoes. He played a pivotal role in Argentina reaching the 2014 World Cup final and deservedly won the Golden Ball for his overall contribution.

Mesut Ozil

The stats don't lie. Mesut Ozil was the most prolific playmaker of a generation, starring in Real Madrid's midfield before coming to the Premier League, where he was inarguably never backed up with enough players of his considerable talent.

The No.10 shirt has been worn by Ozil at most of his clubs as well as at national level for Germany, where he was consistently voted the German player of the year during Die Mannschaft's golden age. A divisive footballer even at his very best - but one that there's no denying really sums up the shirt number.

Juan Roman Riquelme

One of the most mystical footballers of all time, Juan Roman Riquelme was a midfield master who dazzled in three separate spells at Boca Juniors - where he's still idolised perhaps even more than the great Maradona.

A typical 'enganche' in Argentinian football, Riquelme's close control, ball-carrying and eye for a pass was unrivalled at his very best. Talent hits the target while genius hits the target that no one else can see - and it's safe to say that Riquelme was a genius.

Francesco Totti

Arguably the most famous one-club man of all time, Francesco Totti embodied the his shirt number wherever he was used in the frontline. Italy have a habit of producing world-class No.10s - and this guy was just one of many.

And he might just be the best. Totti's influence is endless while his class is eternal. The Roma legend is someone that many an Italian grew up idolising - it's crazy to

think how many footballers over there will wear the no.10 simply because he looked so cool while wearing it...

Michel Platini

Kids today know Michel Platini as a disgraced UEFA president - but boy was he one hell of a footballer before his questionable career in politics began.

Platini was an extraordinary playmaker, with incredible passing range, a keen eye for a set piece and was capable of chipping in goals and assists a-plenty. At his peak, no one was half as good: he won the Ballon d'Or three years in a row in the 1980s and he dazzled every time he touched the ball.

Dennis Bergkamp

It says a lot that despite Thierry Henry eclipsing Dennis Bergkamp's goal total at Arsenal with utter ease, fans rank the Dutchman on par with their record goalscorer.

And Thierry himself called Bergkamp the greatest footballer he ever played with. There were few with such grace as the non-flying Dutchman, who bewitched audiences in the '90s and early 2000s with a combination of pinpoint passing and velvet control of the ball. He was one of the defining no.10s of the Premier League's early days.

Soccer Positions

A Complete Guide

[Written by Ben in Soccer Positions]

The game of soccer has been around for almost 2,000 years. Over these years, the positions of the players on a soccer field have dramatically changed. Today, there are many factors to fully understand everything about soccer positions – from knowing the placement of each position on the field to learning how to train for each specific position.

Throughout this guide, I'll clearly explain everything you need to know about soccer positions.

So, what should you know about each soccer position?

To understand positions in soccer, you must be familiar with:

- The position numbers
- The importance of each position
- The placement of positions on the soccer field
- Field formations and where your position will be
- Skill sets that are critical for each position
- How to choose which position to play
- What makes someone great at their soccer position
- How to properly train for each position

Soccer can be tons of fun if you know what you are doing in the field. This article will go over the critical aspects of each position that you must know to dominate the soccer field.

Soccer Positions and Numbers

There are 11 positions in soccer. These eleven positions include ten outfield players and one goalkeeper. The most common formation of these positions on a soccer field consists of four players in defense, three in midfield, and three forwards.

The 11 positions in soccer are:

1. **Goalkeeper**
2. **Right Full-back (or Wingback)**
3. **Left Full-back (or Wingback)**
4. **Center-back**
5. **Center back (or sweeper)**
6. **Defensive Midfielder**
7. **Right Midfielder (or Winger)**
8. **Center Midfielder**
9. **Center Forward (or Striker)**
10. **Attacking Midfielder (or Center Forward)**
11. **Left Midfielder (or Winger)**

A number is assigned to each position. You'll see them clearly displayed on the back of a soccer player's jersey. This started in the 1920s to allow individuals to identify where players were on the field. Below are the **11 soccer positions** and how they are usually numbered**.**

Soccer Position Numbers

Position Number	Position
1	Goalie or Goalkeeper
2	Right Fullback or Wingback
3	Left Fullback or Wingback
4	Center Back
5	Center Back or Sweeper
6	Defending or Center Midfielder
7	Right Midfielder or Winger
8	Center Midfielder
9	Center Forward or Striker
10	Attacking Midfielder or Center Forward
11	Left Midfielder or Winger

Soccer Position Roles and Their Importance

As with many sports, specific positions are assigned in soccer to make sure that each team can protect the soccer ball and defend their goal to the best of their ability.

The positions assigned in soccer are split into 3 main groups:

- **Defenders**
- **Midfielders**
- **and Forwards**

The soccer defenders' main goal is to stop the opposing team from making attacks and scoring goals. They are positioned within their own half of the field and work together to ensure the other team doesn't progress.

There are four main defensive positions in soccer. They are:

- **Goalkeeper** – The goalkeeper defends the goal from the other team's offensive players. **The goalkeeper is the only player that can use their arms and hands to block the ball** as long as the ball is inside the penalty box. If they step outside the penalty box or a member of their team passes them the ball, they cannot use their hands.

- **Right and Left Fullbacks** – **The right and left fullbacks** defend the sides of the field at the back and focus on blocking the opposing team's wingers or right or left midfielders. It is better if they are lighter on their feet to move quickly up and down the field to help with various plays. (*If you want to know why I think this position is the easiest on the soccer field, check out **this article** I wrote.*)

- **Center Back** – The center back, or central defender, is another defense position that covers the center of the field just in front of the goal. Their purpose is to prevent the opposing team, or the ball, from reaching the goalkeeper.

- **Sweeper** – The position of a sweeper is one that is not used that often. However, when it is used, their job is to defend the goal as a line of defense between the goalkeeper and the other defenders. They must fill the gaps left by their teammates in order to protect the goal.

Midfielders

In soccer, the midfielders are stationed in the middle of the field, between the forwards and defenders. Their main job is to be a part of the attack and keep the ball pushing forwards towards the goal. The midfielders are often known as the "engine room" of a team as so much of the energy and action of a game comes through them and is created by them.

There are four types of midfielders on the field, and they are:

- **Defending or Holding Midfielder** – A midfielder, also known as a halfback, runs up and down the middle of the field between the defenders and forwards, connecting the team from the back to the front. They do lots of running during the game as they move the ball to different parts of the field. **The defensive midfielder** must focus on retrieving balls from the back of the field while setting up the ball for the forwards to attack. I recently wrote an article – **17 Qualities of every Great Defensive Midfielder** – which you can check out and discover much more about the role of a

defensive midfielder in soccer and why it may be **the best position in soccer**.

- **Center Midfielder** – As one of the most essential roles, **the central midfielder** plays both offense and defense on the field. They set up plays for their team and move forward or backward, depending on where the ball is. They are the key to linking the team together as a whole by making many important decisions on the field. They need to have **excellent ball skills**. They are known for making long shots on the goal and assisting others.

- **Right and Left Midfielder or Wingers** – These midfielders play on the edges of the field drawing out the other team's defense and making room for the center midfielder and attacking midfielder to move in the center. They will often encounter one-on-one ball action between themselves and the opposing team's fullbacks as they work to cross the ball toward the center of the field to their teammates. Because they must dribble fast, pass the ball, assist in shots, and score themselves, **wingers** need to be incredibly fast and excellent at using the ball.

- **Attacking Midfielder** – Attacking midfielders spend most of a game focused on shooting and assisting the forwards. Like the center midfielder, the attacking midfielder must have great technique and accuracy when using the ball. They often take control of offensive plays and support the attack when possible.

Forwards are the chief goal scores of the team, as they are placed close to the opposing team's goal and don't have many defensive responsibilities. Forwards typically score more goals than anyone else on the soccer field because of their strategic position.

There are two types of forwards found on the field:

- **Striker** – **The striker's role is to score goals**. They are positioned in front of the field and will always be looking to receive passes from their teammates in an attempt to score a goal. They must be quick and able to outrun the other team's defense and profit from their mistakes. **This is the most important position on a soccer team**.

- **Center Forward** – The main role of the center forward, like the striker, is to score goals. **Center forwards** are known for control of the ball in the air, having good dribbling skills, and working as a distraction for the striker.

- The next step in understanding the various soccer positions is making sure you know where each player is positioned on the soccer field.

- Each player may play in multiple spots on the field depending on their coach's decisions, the formations the team uses, or whether they are playing a more defensive game or a more offensive game.

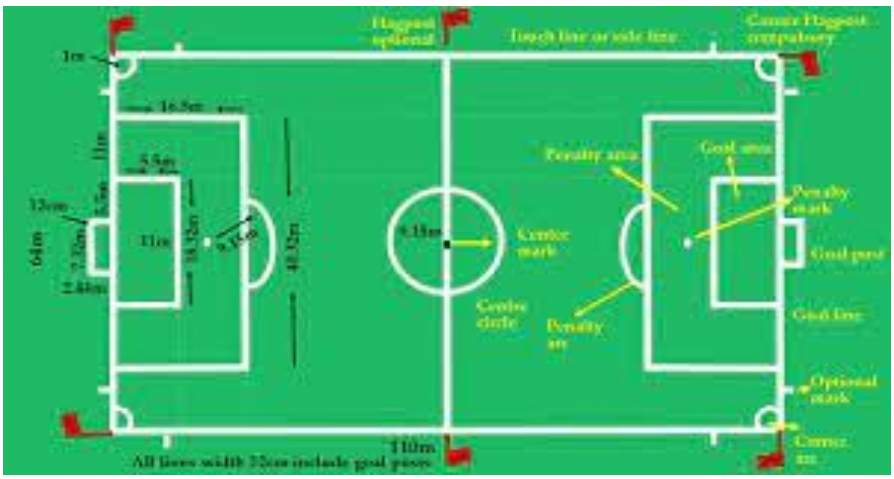
- If you are the **goalkeeper,** you will spend most of your time by the soccer goal, at either end of the field and within the penalty box or area – the 18-yard area that includes the goal area and is also centered in front of the soccer goal.

- If you are a **sweeper,** you will be positioned on the edge of the penalty box directly in front of each soccer goal.

- The **right and left fullbacks** and **center back** are positioned just outside the penalty box. The attacking team's forwards try to make their way into the penalty box to attempt to score a goal, while the defending team tries to keep the ball and opposing players as far away from the penalty box as they can.

- **Midfielders** spend the majority of their time playing in the middle third of the field, positioned between their attackers and their defenders.

- The **striker** and **forwards** aim to spend most of their time at the opposing teams' end of the field by their goal and penalty box.



PELE in Stamps!

If there's one name in football that has remained in the minds and hearts of football players and enthusiasts, it's Pele. So what makes Pele the most popular man in this sport? To know about the player, one has to pay attention to his many sporting records and achievements. Up until this time, Pele is the all-time leading scorer of the Brazilian soccer team, and the only player to be part of the Brazilian team that managed to win three World Cups. Also, he was the youngest player to have scored in an international match - in 1957, a few days before his 17th birthday. One can say that it was one goal that redefined the sport and catapulted Pele to superstar status. This record remained unsurpassed until today, thus earning him a number of accolades, including the citation 'FIFA Player of the Century'.

There were a number of stamps that were designed to commemorate Pele's achievements in the game. He was part of the stamp's design in 1970 when the Brazilian team managed to win the Cup. The stamp shows Pele and his two team-mates as he celebrates a goal.

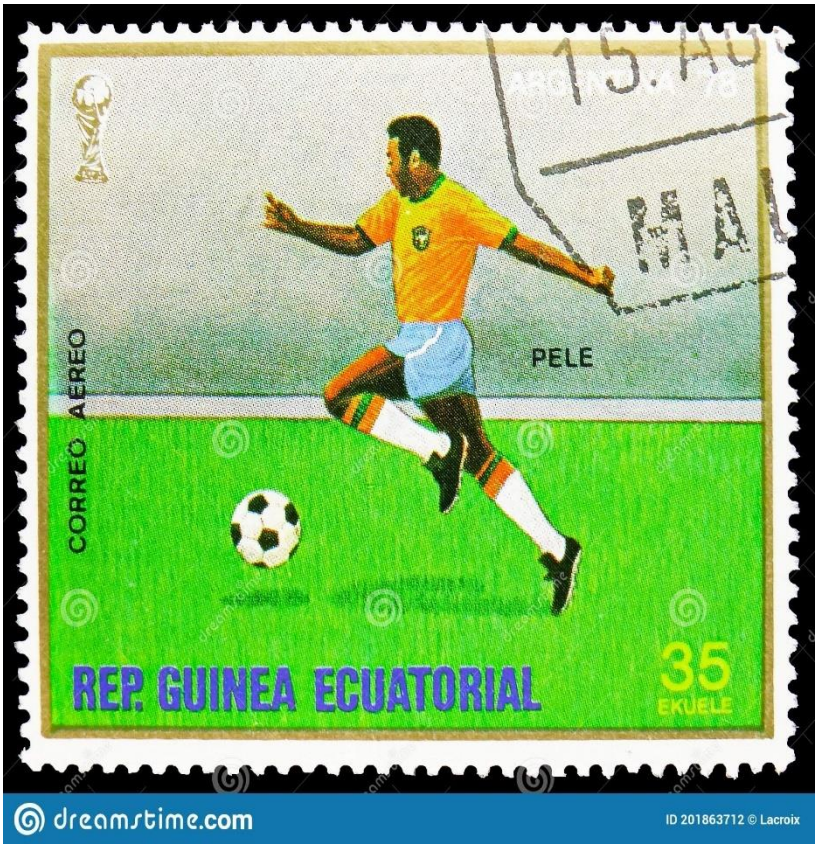
Pele may be Brazilian but it doesn't mean that he's only immortalized on Brazilian stamps. Other countries have also paid tribute to Pele's artistry on the playing field. Many countries that have also professed their love and passion for the 'beautiful game' included Pele in their stamp programs. For example, the Russian Republic of Komi issued stamps with Pele as the leading star.

Pele's influence in the sport extends beyond his professional playing career. Even after his retirement from the game, Pele was often used as the subject of many write-ups and stamps issued in Brazil and other countries. He also performed other roles in support of many organizations, including United Nations and UNESCO as ambassador.

Brazil had released 1 million stamps
[1000 x 1000] on the occasion of
Pele scoring the 1000th GOAL!

Here produced are some of selected sample stamps released by other countries honouring Pele!

GRENADA • GRENADINES
$6
NICARAGUA
5 CENTAVOS
CORREO
ESCOGIDO POR VOTACIÓN MUNDIAL
PELE. EL BRASIL
PELE
REPUBLIQUE DE HAUTE-VOLTA
60F


CORREO AEREO
PELE
REP. GUINEA ECUATORIAL
35
EKUELE
dreamstime.com
ID 201863712 © Lacroix

Pelé
RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
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dreamstime.com

BRASIL CORREIO
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BRASIL CORREIO
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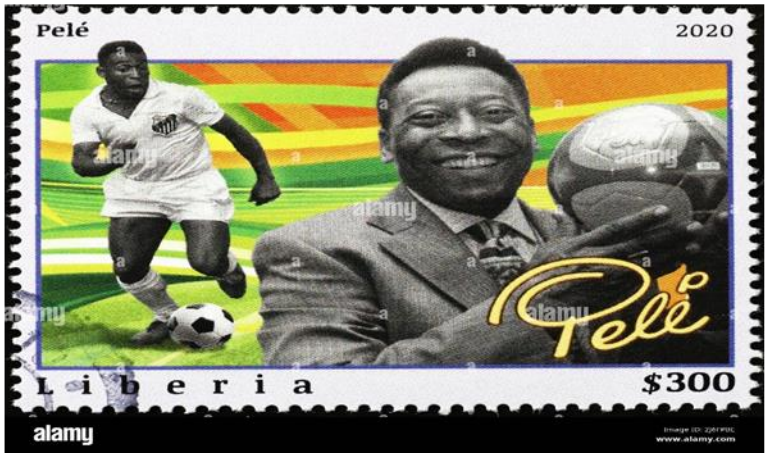
PELE. EL BRASIL


Pelé
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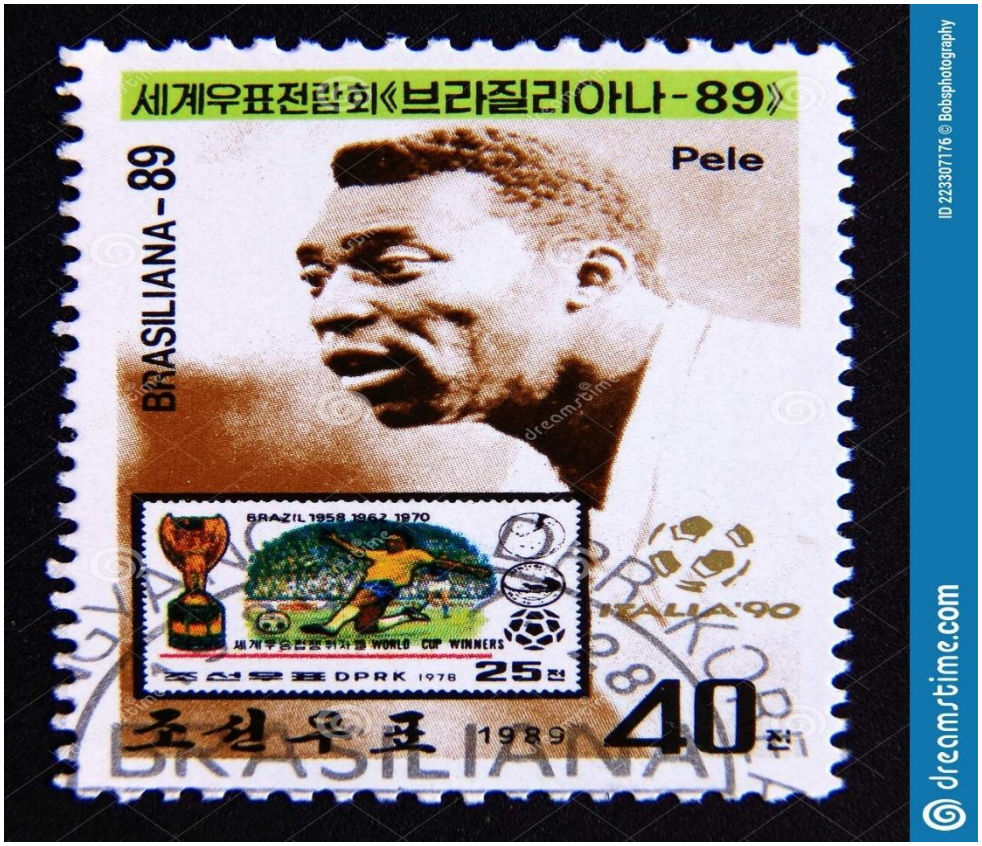
세계우표전람회《브라질리아나-89》
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Pele
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WORLD CUP WINNERS
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BRASILIANA
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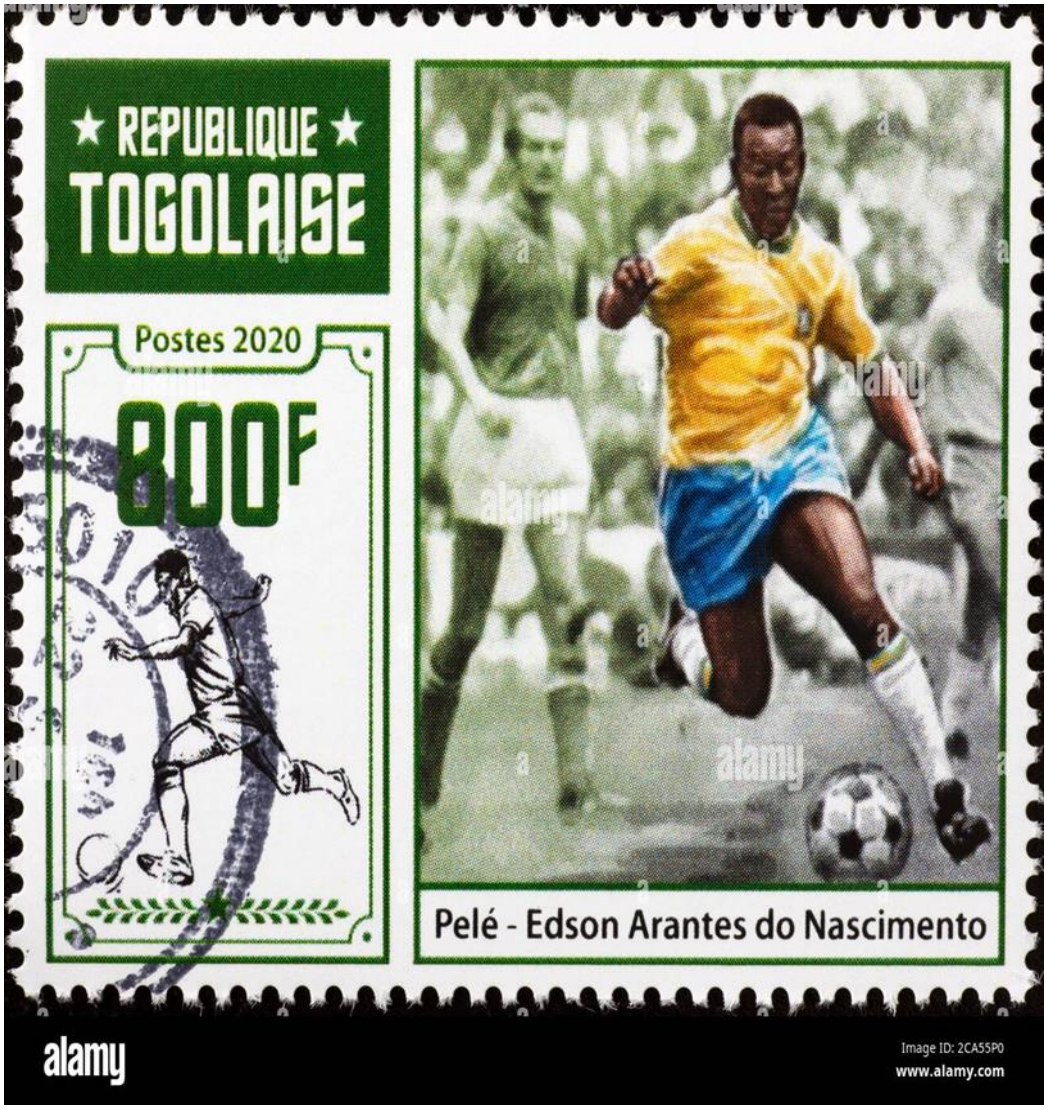
dreamstime.com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Pelé - Edson Arantes do Nascimento
alamy
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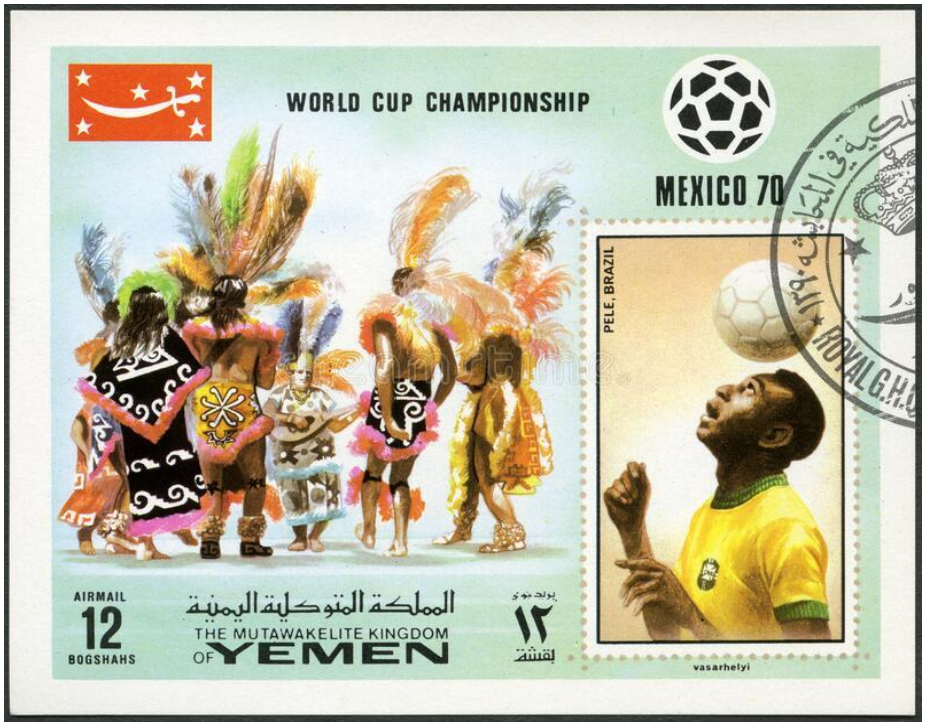
www.alamy.com


WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP
MEXICO 70
PELE, BRAZIL
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12
BOGSHAHS
المملكة المتوكلية اليمنية
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CORREO AEREO
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INTERNATIONAL
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SOCCER CHAMPION
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YAR
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LES FOOT LEURS
Pelé
Johan Cruyff
RUSSIA 2018
RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
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George
Lev Yachine
1150F
1500F
LIBREVILLE
03 13 2017

Pelé
RUSSIA 2018
RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE
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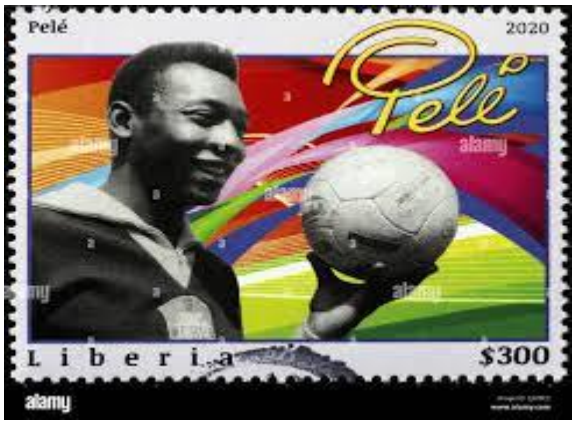

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GUINÉ-BISSAU
GUINÉ-BISSAU
GUINÉ-BISSAU

Pele Brazil
SUPERSTAR
458

Gustavo Pena 1955–2004
Pelé
2020
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alamy

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SP

Bobby Charlton
Pelé
Franz Beckenbauer
Dino Zoff
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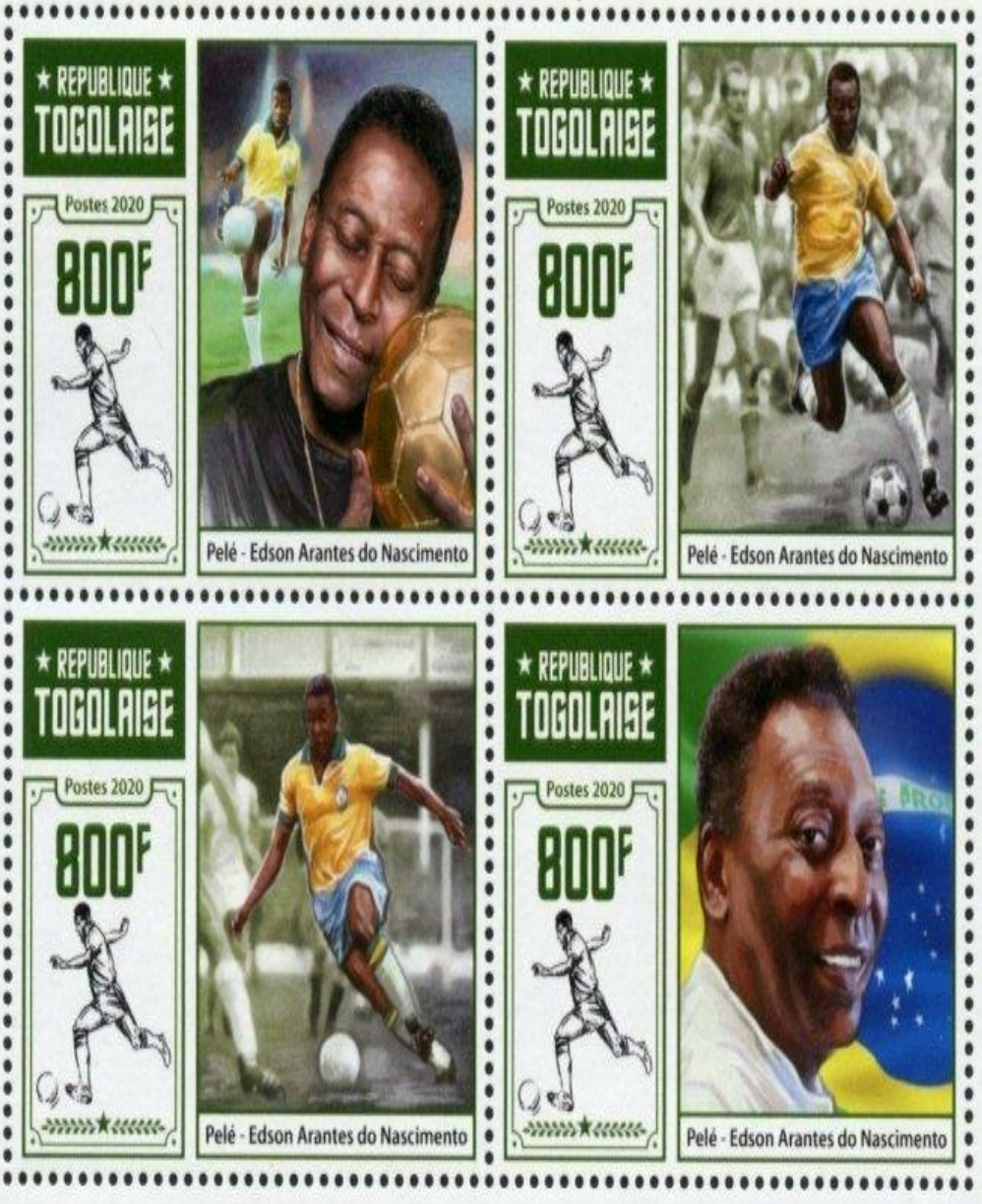
80e anniversaire de PELÉ



TG200154a

Original Pele Reais Plastic Banknote Free Shipping to Brazil 2021 Football Note Non-currency Money Souvenir Collectibles - Gold Banknotes

PELE – Biography

Source:

https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/p/Pel%25C3%25A9.htm

Pelé

Pelé

Personal information		
Full name	Edson Arantes do Nascimento	
Date of birth	October 23, 1940	
Place of birth	Três Corações (MG), Brazil	
Nickname	*Pelé* *O Rei* (The King), *Pérola Negra* (The Black Pearl), *Dico* (by his family)	
Position	Forward	
Youth clubs		
1952-1956	Bauru EC	
Professional clubs*		
Years	**Club**	**Apps (goals)**
1956-1974 1975-1977	Santos FC New York Cosmos	605 (589) 64 (37)
National team		
1956-1971	Brazil	92 (77)

* Professional club appearances and goals

counted for the domestic league only.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, KBE (born October 23, 1940 in Três Corações, Brazil), best known by his nickname **Pelé**, is a former Brazilian football player, and widely regarded to be the greatest of all time. In his native Brazil, Pelé is hailed as a national hero for his accomplishments and contribution to the game, in addition to being officially declared a national treasure by the Brazilian government. During his career, he became known as **"The King of Football"** (*O Rei do Futebol*) or simply **"The King Pelé"** (*O Rei Pelé*).

Spotted from a young age, Pelé began playing for Santos Futebol Clube at just 15, his national team at 16, and won his first World Cup at 17. He stayed loyal to his club, remaining with them for two decades until his semi-retirement in 1975, despite numerous offers from European clubs. Pelé played as an inside forward, striker, and what later became known as the playmaker position. Pelé's technique and natural athleticism have been universally praised; he was renowned for his brilliant dribbling and visionary passing, as well as his pace, powerful shot, and an exceptional heading ability.

He is the all-time top scorer in the history of the Brazil national team and is the only footballer ever to win three World Cup titles as a player.

Since his full retirement in 1977 Pelé has been an ambassador for football and has also undertaken various acting roles and commercial ventures.

Early life

Born in Três Corações, Minas Gerais, Brazil, the son of Fluminense footballer Dondinho (born Joao Ramos do Nascimento) and Celeste. He was named after American inventor Thomas Edison, and was originally nicknamed **Dico** by his family. He did not receive the nickname "Pelé" until his school days, when it is claimed he was given it because of his pronunciation of the name of his favourite player, local Vasco da Gama goalkeeper Bilé, which he misspoke "Pilé". He originally disliked the nickname, being suspended from school for punching the classmate that coined it, but the more he complained the more it stuck. In his autobiography, Pelé stated he had no idea what the name means, nor did his old friends. Apart from the assertion that the name is derived from that of Bilé, the word has no known meaning, although it does resemble the Irish language word 'Peile', meaning football, and the Hebrew word פֶּלֶא, meaning "wonder".

Growing up in poverty in Bauru, São Paulo, Pelé earned extra money by shining shoes at the Bauru Athletic Club on match days. Taught to play by his father, whose own professional football career with Atletico Mineiro ended prematurely due to a knee injury, he could not afford a proper football and usually played with either a sock stuffed with newspaper, tied with a string or a grapefruit.

His first team was called the "Shoeless Ones" formed by himself and other boys from the Sete de Setembro and Rubens Arruda Street but, when they entered a local tournament organised by the mayor of Bauru that required footwear, they were no longer shoeless and were renamed Ameriquinha. They reached the final in BAC Stadium in front of thousands of spectators and won with Pele ending up as the tournament top scorer.

In 1954, several members of the Ameriquinha team, including Pele, were invited to join the Baquinho boys' team to be managed by former Brazilian international Waldemar de Brito, who played in the 1934 World Cup in Italy. For the first time, Pele was paid to play football. The team won the 1954 Youth Championship organised by the newspapers Diario de Bauru and the São Paulo Sporting Gazette with Pele scoring 148 goals in 33 games.

Club career

Santos

In 1956, de Brito took Pelé to Santos, an industrial and port city in the eastern state of São Paulo, to try out for professional club Santos Futebol Clube telling the directors at Santos that the 15-year-old would be "the greatest football player in the world."

National team career

Pelé's first international match was a 2-1 victory against Argentina on July 7, 1957. In that match, he scored his first goal for Brazil, three months before his 17th birthday.

1958 World Cup

His World Cup debut was against the USSR in the first round of the 1958 FIFA World Cup. He was the youngest player of that tournament, and at the time the youngest ever to play in the World Cup. He scored his first World Cup goal against Wales in quarterfinals, the only goal of the match, to help Brazil advance to semifinals, while becoming the youngest ever World Cup goalscorer at 17 years and 239 days. Against France in the semifinal, Brazil was leading 2-1 at halftime, and then Pelé scored a hat-trick, becoming the youngest in World Cup history to do so.

On 19 June 1958 Pelé became the youngest player to play in a World Cup final match at 17 years and 249 days. He scored two goals in the final as Brazil beat Sweden 5-

2. His first goal, a lob over a defender followed by a precise volley shot, was selected as one of the best goals in the history of the World Cup. When the match ended, he passed out on the field, and had to be attended by the medical staff. He then recovered, and was visibly compelled by the victory, in tears as being congratulated by his teammates. He finished the tournament with six goals in four matches played, tied for second place, behind record-breaker Just Fontaine.

1962 World Cup

In the first match of the 1962 World Cup, against Mexico, Pelé assisted the first goal and then scored the final 2-0 after a run past four defenders. He injured himself while attempting a long-range shot against Czechoslovakia. This would keep him out of the rest of the tournament, and forced coach Aymoré Moreira to make his only lineup change of the tournament. The substitute was Amarildo, who had a good performance in the tournament; it was, however, Garrincha, who would take the leading role and carried Brazil to their second World Cup title.

1966 World Cup

The 1966 tournament was remembered for its excessive physical play, and Pelé was one of the victims of such play. After becoming the first player ever to score in three World Cups, with a direct free kick against Bulgaria, he had to rest, due to tiredness, for the match against Hungary, which Brazil lost 1-3. He then faced Portugal, and several violent tackles by the Portuguese defenders caused him to leave the match and the tournament. Brazil lost that match and were eliminated in the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1934. After the tournament, Pelé declared that he did not wish to play in the World Cup again.

1970 World Cup

When Pelé was called to the national team in early 1969, he first refused, but then accepted and played in six World Cup qualifying matches, scoring six goals. The 1970 tournament in Mexico was to be Pelé's last.

The 1970 squad featured major changes in relation to the 1966 squad. Players like Garrincha, Nilton Santos, Djalma Santos, and Gilmar had already retired, but the team, with Pelé, Rivelino, Jairzinho, Gérson, Tostão, and Clodoaldo, is widely considered one of the greatest football teams ever.

In the first match, against Czechoslovakia, Pelé scored the 2-1 after controlling Gerson's pass with his chest. Brazil won the match, 4-1. On the first half of the match against England, he nearly scored with a header that was spectacularly saved by Gordon Banks. On the second half, he assisted Jairzinho for the only goal of the match. Against Romania, he opened the score on a direct free kick goal, a strong strike

with the outside of his right foot. Later on the match he scored again to put the score 3-1. Brazil won by a final score of 3-2. In quarterfinals against Peru, Brazil won 4-2, with Pelé assisting Tostão on his team's third goal. In the semi-finals, Brazil faced Uruguay for the first time since the 1950 World Cup final round match. Jairzinho put Brazil ahead 2-1, and Pelé assisted Rivelino for the 3-1. In that match, Pelé hit Uruguayan player Fontes with his elbow, at the same time the latter was fouling Pelé.

Brazil played Italy in the final, with Pelé scoring the opener on a header over defender Tarcisio Burgnich. He then made assists on Jairzinho's and Carlos Alberto's goals, the latter one after an impressive collective play. Brazil won the match 4-1, keeping the Jules Rimet Trophy indefinitely. Burgnich, who marked Pelé during the match, was quoted saying "I told myself before the game, *he's made of skin and bones just like everyone else* — but I was wrong".

His last international match was on July 18, 1971 against Yugoslavia in Rio de Janeiro. His record with the Brazilian team was 67 wins, 14 draws, and 11 losses. Brazil never lost a match with both Pelé and Garrincha on the field.

Honours

Santos

Official Tournaments

- Campeonato Paulista champion in 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1973
- Torneio Rio-São Paulo champion in 1959, 1963 and 1964
- Torneio Roberto Gomes Pedrosa (Taça de Prata) champion in 1968
- Taça Brasil champion in 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964 and 1965
- Copa Libertadores champion in 1962 and 1963
- Intercontinental Cup in 1962 and 1963
- South-American Recopa in 1968

Unofficial Tournaments

- Copa Oswaldo Cruz: 1958, 1962, 1968
- Mexico City Tournament: 1959
- Teresa Herrera Trophy: 1959
- Copa Naranja de Valencia : 1959
- Paris Tournament: 1960, 1961
- Buenos Aires Tournament: 1965

- Chile Octogonal Tournament: 1968
- Rome-Florence Tournament: 1968
- Amazon Tournament: 1968
- Kingston City Tournament: 1971
- Laudo Natel Tournament: 1974

New York Cosmos

- NASL champion in 1977

Brazil

- World Cup champion in 1958, 1962, 1970
- Roca Cup: 1957, 1963
- Copa O'Higgins: 1959
- Copa Atlântica: 1960

Other

He was voted *Athlete of the Century* by the International Olympic Committee in 1999 for his Olympic successes.

In December 2000, Pelé was named *Footballer of the Century* by FIFA. The award was intended to be based upon votes in a web poll, but after it became apparent that it favoured Diego Maradona, many observers complained that the internet nature of the poll would have meant a skewed demographic of younger fans who would have seen Maradona play, but not Pele. FIFA then appointed a "Family of Football" committee of soccer experts to decide the winner of the award. Maradona was instead awarded the title of *FIFA Internet Player of the Century*. Allegations that the internet poll had been bombarded by Argentine fans still remain to this day.

In the same year, Pelé received the Laureus World Sports Awards Lifetime Achievement Award from South African President Nelson Mandela.

Career Statistics

Goalscoring and appearance record

Pelé's goalscoring record is often reported as being 1281 goals in 1363 games. This figure includes goals scored by Pelé in non-competitive club matches, for example, international tours Pelé completed with Santos and the New York Cosmos, and games Pelé played in for armed forces teams during his national service in Brazil.

The tables below record every goal Pelé scored in major club competitions for Santos and the New York Cosmos. During much of Pelé's playing career in Brazil there was no national league championship. From 1960 onwards the Brazilian Football

Confederation (CBF) were required to provide meritocratic entrants for the then-new Copa Libertadores, a South American international club competition broadly equivalent to the European Cup. To enable them to do this, the CBF organised two national competitions: the Taça de Prata and Taça Brasil. A national league championship, the Campeonato Brasileiro, was first played in 1971, alongside traditional state and interstate competitions such as the Campeonato Paulista and the Torneio Rio-São Paulo.

The number of league goals scored by Pelé is listed as 589 in 605 games. This number is the sum of the goals scored by Pelé in national league-based competitions: the Campeonato Paulista (SPS), Torneio Rio-São Paulo (RSPS), Taça de Prata and Campeonato Brasileiro. The Taça Brasil was a national competition organised on a knockout basis.

A dark grey cell in the table indicates that the relevant competition did not take place that year.

Club	Season	SPS		RSPS		T. de Prata		Camp. Brasil.		T. Brasil		Copa Libertadores		Total	
		Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
Santos	1956	0*	0*											0*	0*
	1957	14+15*	19+17*	9	5									38	41
	1958	38	58	8	8									46	66
	1959	32	45	7	6					4*	2*			43*	53*
	1960	30	33	3	0					0	0	0	0	33	33
	1961	26	47	7	8					5*	7	0	0	38*	62
	1962	26	37	0	0					5*	2*	4*	4*	35*	43*

	1963	19	22	8	14					4*	8	4*	5*	35*	49*
	1964	21	34	4	3					6*	7	0*	0*	31*	44*
	1965	30	49	7	5					4*	2*	7*	8	48*	64*
	1966	14	13	0*	0*					5*	2*	0	0	19*	15*
	1967	18	17			14*	9*			0	0	0	0	32*	26*
	1968	21	17			17*	11*			0	0	0	0	38*	28*
	1969	25	26			12*	12*					0	0	37*	38*
	1970	15	7			13*	4*					0	0	28*	11*
	1971	19	8					21	1			0	0	40	9
	1972	20	9					16	5			0	0	36	14
	1973	19	11					30	19			0	0	49	30
	1974	10	1					17	9			0	0	27	10
	All	**412**	**470**	**53**	**49**	**56***	**36***	**84**	**34**	**33***	**30***	**15**	**17**	**653**	**636**

Club	Season	NASL	
		Apps	Goals
NY Cosmos	1975	9	5
	1976	24	15

	1977	31	17
	All	**64**	**37**

- *A "*" indicates this number was inferred from a Santos fixture list from rsssf.com and this list of games Pelé played, with the number of goals he scored in each.*

Other records

Pelé is in third place on the list of all-time top goalscorers in international matches; in 92 appearances for the Brazilian team, he scored 77 goals. He is in fourth place behind Ronaldo, Gerd Müller, and Just Fontaine on the list of goalscorers in World Cup matches, with 12 goals. He was part of three World Cup winning teams, although he did not play in the 1962 final due to injury and did not receive a medal. Pelé is one of only four footballers to have achieved the feat of scoring in two different world cup final matches, sharing that honour with Paul Breitner, Vava, and Zinedine Zidane. He is one of five players to have scored twice from direct free kick in World Cups (The others are Rivelino, Teófilo Cubillas, Bernard Genghini, and David Beckham). He is one of only two players to have scored in four World Cups (the other being Uwe Seeler, who did it in the same four tournaments as Pelé).

It is often claimed that Pelé is the most prolific scorer in football history. According to FIFA, Pelé ended his career with a total of 1281 goals in 1363 matches. However, many of these goals were scored in non-competitive club matches. For instance, if one counts non-competitive goals when compiling the total of goals scored by Gerd Müller, he would have a career total of 1455 goals in 1204 games. As non-competitive games are rarely counted in player's statistics it is unknown how many players could have passed Pelé's mark, but 1281 goals is certainly one of the highest totals achieved by a professional footballer. If one looks only at competitive goals, then Pelé is the third highest scorer of all time behind Arthur Friedenreich and Josef Bican. Bican never attempted to draw attention to his record, and when questioned about this, he quipped "who'd have believed me if I said I'd scored five times as many goals as Pelé?"

Although the Brazilian domestic league system provided every single starter from the 1958, 1962, and 1970 Brazil World Cup Champions, perhaps leading one to the assumption that it was the world's strongest league during the years of Pelé's career, one also has to take into account the state nature of the league. At the time Santos mainly played against other teams from the São Paulo region, whereas the best players were spread around teams all across Brazil. For instance Garrincha, Jairzinho

and Altair played in the Rio de Janeiro League, Tostão played in the Minas Gerais League, and of the players that actually competed in São Paulo, Carlos Alberto, Zito, Pepe and Gilmar actually played with Pele for Santos. As of 2006, teams from São Paulo state have won 14 of a possible 36 national league titles (see Titles by state).

AFTER FOOTBALL

Pelé, right, with Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, left, and Dona Marisa, July 13, 2004.

The most notable area of Pelé's life since football is his ambassadorial work for various bodies. In 1992, Pelé was appointed a United Nations ambassador for ecology and the environment.

He was awarded Brazil's Gold Medal for outstanding services to the sport, and in 1995, Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso appointed Pelé to the position of "Extraordinary Minister for Sport". During this time he proposed legislation to reduce corruption in Brazilian football, which became known as the *Pelé law*. When finally approved in 2000, the bill contained just 11% of the original text, causing Pelé to state that he wanted his name removed from it. Pelé left his position in 2001 after he was accused of involvement in a bribery scandal.

In 1995, he was appointed a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and in 1997 he was given an honorary British knighthood.

In 2002, Pelé scouted for Premiership Football Team Manchester United and Fulham FC.

In 2005, Pelé drew international media attention due to the imprisonment of his son Edson Cholbi Nascimento, an ex-goalkeeper of Santos Futebol Clube, who was arrested in an operation to dismantle a drug gang in southeastern Brazil. The younger Nascimento, then 35, was arrested along with about 50 other people after an eight-month investigation into a cocaine trafficking operation in the port city of Santos.

Pelé has published several autobiographies, starred in documentary and semi-documentary films and composed various musical pieces, including the entire soundtrack for the film *Pelé* in 1977. He appeared, alongside other footballers of the

1960s and 1970s, Michael Caine, and Sylvester Stallone, in the 1981 film *Escape to Victory*, about an attempted escape from a World War II Nazi POW Camp. Pelé was one of the first black persons to be featured on the cover of *Life* magazine, and was the first sports figure featured in a video game with the Atari 2600 game *Pelé's Soccer*.

He is now reasonably well known for his role in promoting impotence cure Viagra.

He once remarked that George Best was the "greatest footballer in the world". After Best's death Pelé sent a football to his family, on which he wrote "From the second best player in the world".

Acting and film career

- ***Os Estranhos* (1969) (TV Series)**
- ***O Barão Otelo no Barato dos Bilhões* (1971)**
- ***A Marcha* (1973)**
- ***Os Trombadinhas* (1978)**
- ***Escape to Victory* (1981)**
- ***A Minor Miracle* (1983)**
- ***Pedro Mico* (1985)**
- ***Os Trapalhões e o Rei do Futebol* (1986)**
- ***Hotshot* (1987)**
- ***Solidão, Uma Linda História de Amor* (1990)**
- ***Mike Bassett: England Manager* (2001)**
- ***ESPN SportsCentury* (2004)**

Personal life

Pelé has been married twice; first in 1966, to Rosemeri, with whom he had three children. This marriage ended in divorce in 1982. He married Assiria on April 30, 1994 and the couple have two children.

In addition to his children from two marriages, Pele has at least one other daughter, Sandra Regina Arantes do Nascimento (who died of breast cancer on October 17, 2006 at age 42).

Trivia

Pelé said in his autobiography his biggest regret was never scoring an overhead bicycle kick during a World Cup.

Suggestion:

For additional information, please visit the following web pages.

01] https://www.footballhistory.org/player/pele.html

02] https://starsunfolded.com/pele/

03] https://www.sportskeeda.com/player/pele

04] https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/edison-arantes-do-nascimento-2544.php

05]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rb_JqP6hAs&ab_channel=FamousPeopleBio

06] https://sportsmatik.com/hall-of-fame/view/pel-1297

07] https://www.espn.com/classic/biography/s/Pele.html

08]https://www.streetdirectory.com/travel_guide/46236/soccer/biography_of_pele___the_king_of_football.html

His Last Match

https://www.espn.in/football/santos-fc/story/3216210/farewell-to-the-king-remembering-peles-final-game-40-years-ago

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Farewell to The King

When Pele played his last game on: 1 10 1977

On 1 October 1977, New York and the sporting world bid goodbye "to a king."

As described by **Shep Messing** (Lead Analyst for the New York Red Bulls & then a 27-year-old goalkeeper for the New York Cosmos)

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A friendly between the Cosmos, Pele's last team, and Santos FC, the Brazilian football club for which he had become a legend, Pele's final game on Oct. 1, 1977, was not just a soccer match, but an event. That the Cosmos won 2-1 is inconsequential.

Pele had come to the Cosmos of the North American Soccer League in 1975 off an assist from Henry Kissinger, who sat down with the soccer great in a café and convinced him to bring his talents to the United States. The pitch: Come to America from Brazil and change the sporting landscape forever.

"That's why he came to the Cosmos," Messing said. "You can go to Spain, to Italy, and win a title, but you can come to the Cosmos and win a country."

And Pele did, eventually.

Months before playing the final game of his storied career in front of 77,000 adoring fans at Giants Stadium who showered him with love as

he sobbed after his farewell speech, Pele and the Cosmos played in front of 10,000, sometimes 20,000 fans. They were not, as former Cosmos defenseman Werner Roth said, "a hit."

But New York was reeling in the late summer of 1977 from a sweltering heat wave and blackouts and the Son of Sam serial killer, David Berkowitz, who brought the city to its knees.

Pele and the Cosmos would bring New Yorkers back to their feet, and in a big way. They started winning -- this, after Pele's first two seasons with the club had been relatively uneventful -- and they won over the city. The Cosmos' side-line became the hottest ticket in town. Move over, Studio 54, there was a new hot spot in town.

"In simple terms, Pele made soccer cool," Messing said. "Mick Jagger, Elton John, Robert Redford at the games. Muhammad Ali, he was there on the field for that final game, and at that time, the two most recognizable people on the planet were the two of them. Ali's waving to the crowd, blowing kisses, doing the Muhammad Ali thing, and as soon as he walked into the locker room ... he was like a child. He looked up to Pele. It was so interesting to see his whole attitude change."

That final game, Roth said, was the "culmination of a three-year adventure that I don't think any of us will forget."

Pele played the first half of his last game for Santos -- scoring a goal, the last of the 1,281 goals of his career -- then switched jerseys and played for the Cosmos in the second half. He wasn't the Pele of old, but, as teammate Bobby Smith said, "There were still flashes of magic we saw in him. I saw him do things I've never seen another soccer player do."

Messing offered his assessment. "I taught him how to play basketball, and he was at this time, what, 36 years old?" Messing said. "Well, I taught him in Fort Lauderdale, and he said, 'Am I allowed to jump?' He took the ball, and he's 5-8, 5-9, at the most, and he's stuffing it.

He's jamming on me with two hands. He was an athlete like never seen before. Even our final game at Giants Stadium, he didn't do it for 90 minutes, but he had flashes."

During the second half, when Pele was playing with the Cosmos, it started to pour. A Brazilian newspaper came out the following day, on Oct. 2, with the headline: "Even The Sky Was Crying."

"That day was a sad day," Smith said. "We were saying goodbye to him, and I didn't want to see it end. It was an honor every day. It was never quite like he was your teammate. It was so weird. He never felt like a normal man to me."

By the time the game was over, the field was drenched. Messing and fellow goalie Erol Yasin sprinted over to Pele and hoisted him onto their shoulders for a victory lap around the field.

"I'm mad to this day. Yasin wasn't holding him at all," Messing said. "I'm holding 150 pounds on my shoulder. I'm grimacing trying to hold him. We did the lap, the crowd is going nuts; we get back to the spot and went to put him down, he leans over and says, 'Shep, one more time.' I said, 'I can't go another round.'"

That was the kind of reception that Pele received, and not just on the pitch.

When he had arrived in New York, it was like Beatlemania had been a decade earlier. Roughly 20,000 greeted him at the airport, Messing said.

America at the time had yet to fully accept soccer. The sport was growing from the ground up, finding a home in youth leagues and high schools across the country. Colleges were introducing it, gradually. Major League Soccer was still two decades from existence.

"It was such an incredible twist of irony," Roth said, "that the greatest player in the whole world would finish his career in a country that least appreciated the beautiful game."

Earlier in 1977, Pele got the over-the-top reception he deserved from a host of other countries, as the Cosmos embarked on a worldwide tour that included stops in China and Japan.

Messing said the team would travel to a remote place in China or India, "where there was no radio, no TV, no newspaper, and yet the word would spread that Pele was there, and 20,000 people would show up."

"The world wanted to say goodbye to him," Messing said.

For his former Cosmos teammates, that summer of '77 remains a vivid memory. Lightning in a bottle, they call it. The best time of their lives -- and, it seems, Pele's.

"Pele always told me, and I'm sure he's told other people, that the greatest thing he ever did was come to America," Messing said. "We make appearances together, and he'll always get up to the mike and he says, 'You know,' with a smile, 'I'm getting a little angry, because I travel all over the world, China, Japan, and everybody says, "Pele, what about you and the Cosmos?" Nobody asked me about three Gold Cups with Brazil. Everyone wants to know about me and the Cosmos.'"

Pele was carried around the Giants Stadium pitch by his Cosmos teammates after his final game.

Muhammad Ali was among the notables who took part in the pregame festivities before Pele's last game.

After playing the first half for Santos FC, and scoring their only goal, Pele put on his green Cosmos jersey and played for his NASL club in the second half.

PELE - Documentary

Against the backdrop of a turbulent era in Brazil, this documentary captures **PELÉ'S** extraordinary path from breakthrough talent to national hero.

Visit the webpage:

https://www.netflix.com/in/title/81074673

'Pelé': Film Review

https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/pele-film-review-4134914/

[Kevin Macdonald ('Whitney') executive produced this Netflix documentary, which tracks the legendary Brazilian soccer star through three World Cup victories.]

Reviewed by: JORDAN MINTZER

[28 Feb 2021]

Perhaps not all athletes deserve a monumental 10-part series like Michael Jordan received in The Last Dance, but Pelé, arguably the greatest soccer player of all time and one of the premier athletes of the past century, merits a bit more than he's given in this competent, handsomely made if run-of-the-mill Netflix documentary.

Steeped in what could probably now be considered the streamer's house style — nonstop emotive music, talking-head interviews, archive footage galore, an often-breakneck pace — Pelé focuses mostly on the three World Cup titles the star striker and midfielder took home for

Brazil, the last one when it was under the rule of a brutal military dictatorship. In that respect, directors David Tryhorn and Ben Nichols do a good job chronicling the push-and-pull between sports and politics, and how winning soccer's most coveted prize also meant doing it for the honor of a murderous regime.

But for Pelé completists, or those who just want to understand what made him so great, there are a few too many gaps left unfilled, beginning perhaps with why he was ever called Pelé in the first place. (For the record: his real name was Edson Arantes do Nascimento, while Pelé was a childhood nickname that has no meaning anyone can remember.)

The footballer's extraordinary talent on the field, revealed in a handful of skilfully edited broadcasts of his championship World Cup exploits in 1958, 1962 and 1970 — although an injury in the second game of '62 side-lined him for the remainder of the tournament — may nonetheless remain a mystery to those viewers for whom soccer isn't part of their daily diet. Footage toward the end of the film of fellow national team winger Jairzinho (many of the great Brazilian players are mono-monikered à la Madonna or Neymar) scoring an impressive seven goals in the '70 Cup looks just as impressive as what we see from Pelé at times, so what made the latter so exceptional?

Tryhorn and Nichols manage to condense plenty of data into a tightly wound 108 minutes, tracking how the prodigious Pelé rose to stardom at the ripe age of 15 after being selected by the provincial if power-packed Santos FC, where he remained for the entirety of his local career. By 17, Pelé was already competing in his first World Cup, becoming the youngest player to ever carry a team all the way to the final, where he scored two goals against hosts Sweden and gave Brazil its first national title.

After that, Pelé was often referred to as the "King of Soccer," his name synonymous across the globe with the sport he practiced so well

and so joyously, and with a country that saw some of its brightest days before a coup — supported by the U.S. government, though this is glossed over — struck in 1964, plunging Brazil into a dictatorship that would last for two long decades.

At one point, the film underlines how Pelé's failure to publicly criticize the military-backed government, especially when it was at its merciless peak under the reign of Emílio Garrastazu Médic, proved a disappointment to some of his supporters. The athlete defends his inaction by stating that he did "more for his country as a soccer player than as a politician."

Candid and easygoing in present-day conversations, as well as in scenes of him being pushed around in a wheelchair and joking with his former teammates (the doc features a murderer's row of Brazilian greats, including Amarildo, Mengalvio and Zagallo), the now 80-year-old Pelé has the same winning smile and charming nonchalance that made him such a popular figure in his time. He's also still capable, as evidenced in one late sequence, of turning on the waterworks hard, which is something Pelé did quite regularly during moments of either victory or defeat — as blubberingly emotional as one of his country's own telenovelas.

The movie kicks off and eventually culminates in the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, where Brazil went in as underdogs and came out gloriously on top, thanks mostly to Pelé's leadership as a veteran midfielder dishing out decisive passes to his teammates. Editors Matteo Bini, Andrew Hewitt and Julian Hart do a particularly impressive job making this final international appearance a memorable one, showing how dramatic it was for Pelé to be the pride of a homeland that was being governed by vicious thugs.

At the time he was only 30, but this would be his last major tournament. The rest of Pelé's career was devoted to launching pro soccer in America — his exploits for the New York Cosmos are

depicted in the excellent 2006 doc Once in a Lifetime — various humanitarian actions, a brief run as Brazil's Minister of Sports, and a stint in Hollywood, where he starred with Sylvester Stallone and Michael Caine in John Huston's forgotten sports-war flick, Victory. (A clip from that would have been welcome.)

Much of the above is relegated to the closing credits, which is understandable given the amount of material needed to cover Pelé's life from start to near-finish. What's perhaps less forgivable is how the filmmakers never manage to seize upon the sheer magic of his game, which is only witnessed in a few extended highlights. Nor do they fully emphasize what it meant for him to be Brazil's first Black athlete in history to achieve such renown, which is something hinted at but never put into any real context. As much as Pelé inspired love and awe among his fans, this polished and well-intentioned biography doesn't quite do the same.

Production company: Netflix

Distributor: Netflix

Directors, producers: David Tryhorn, Ben Nichols

Executive producers: Kevin MacDonald, Jon Owen, Jonathan Rogers

Director of photography: Michael Latham

Editors: Matteo Bini, Andrew Hewitt, Julian Hart

Composers: Antônio Pinto, with Gabriel Ferreira, Felipe Kim

In Portuguese, English, French
108 Minutes

Please visit these following to know more about him:

01]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2D_uVetdz4&ab_channel=DocumentaryCentral

02]https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/pel%C3%A9-movie-review-2021

03]https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/23/movies/pele-review.html

04]https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/pele-a-legend-is-born-plot-summary/articleshow/52250254.cms

05]https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13842562/

06]https://www.netflix.com/in/title/81074673

07]https://www.flickeringmyth.com/2021/02/movie-review-pele-2021/

08]https://www.metacritic.com/movie/pele

09]https://play.google.com/store/movies/details/Pele?id=3Ry_3_M9B6E&hl=en_IN&gl=US&pli=1

10] https://www.kaufmann-store.com/en/the-journal/sport/pele

11] https://www.gettyimages.in/photos/pele-the-soccer-player

12] https://olympics.com/en/featured-news/pele-kolkata-1977-calcutta-mohun-bagan-vs-cosmos-indian-football-eden-gardens

13] https://www.espn.com/classic/biography/s/Pele.html

14] https://www.transfermarkt.co.in/pele/erfolge/spieler/17121

15] https://www.footballhistory.org/player/pele.html

16] https://www.ndtv.com/topic/football-legend-pele

17] https://fbref.com/en/players/52961d3b/Pele

18] https://sites.duke.edu/wcwp/tournament-guides/world-cup-2014/world-cup-2014-fan-guide/anglophone-version/brazilian-soccer-a-short-history/brazilian-soccer-history-timeline/

19] https://prezi.com/zovh6ssepefk/the-history-of-the-brazil-national-football-team-began-with/

20] https://www.nycosmos.com/

Escape to Victory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCGxE6maK_o&ab_channel=TheArmourer%27sBench

With the UEFA European Football Championship (the Euros) starting this week we thought what better time to tackle a curious John Huston film starring no less than Michael Caine, Max Von Sydow, Sylvester Stallone, Pele and half of the Ipswich Town football club! It is of course 'Escape To Victory', a film which mixes football with a POW escape movie! We are joined by Ipswich Town fan and host of the excellent WW2TV, Paul Woodage, who brings his expert Ipswich Town knowledge to help us breakdown this unconventional war film!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eQbTGgPNqo&ab_channel=RMMilitaryHistory

Escape to Victory

Still the Greatest Football Movie Ever Made

By Scott Murray

July 27, 2016

Escape to Victory is the 1981 World War II drama that cast Hollywood stars Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone and Max von Sydow alongside football gods Pele, Bobby Moore and Ossie Ardiles.

For some it's an institution watched more times than they can remember. For those who've yet to take in this crossover classic, however, let's be totally clear from the start—you need to address that fact immediately.

Escape to Victory's beloved status in the UK is accepted begrudgingly by some football fans, who'll at least admit it clears the bar of cinematic competence. Small mercies. Yet this rare football flick, directed by the legendary John Huston, is a lot better than the cynics would have you believe, and not just

because the incidental music references Dmitri Shostakovich's *Leningrad* symphony—the sort of touch you won't get from the *Goal!* trilogy.

Many would go so far as to say an eclectic cast came together to make the best football movie ever. It's imprinted on the minds of those who adore it, and yet the millennial audience may barely know of its existance. We need to put that right.

Escape to Victory, known as just *Victory* in the U.S., is 35 years old this week and still held dear by the masses. It's a timeless classic and one that deserves to be celebrated all over again.

The spoilers begin here.

Escape to Victory's narrative arc, which charts Stallone breaking out of a prisoner of war camp twice (!) while inspiring a team of fellow inmates to a four-goal comeback (!!) against an all-star Nazi XI (!!!), is understandably considered absurd.

But the story's a whole lot easier to swallow than a drunk Sean Bean knocking Manchester United out of the FA Cup in *When Saturday Comes*. Or the unwatchable *Yesterday's Hero*, in which Ian McShane—Al Swearengen from *Deadwood*, or *Lovejoy* for those in the UK—lifts the cup for ficticious outfit The Saints against the mighty Leicester Forest.

Escape to Victory's prisoner-camp setting is a world away from everyday domestic concerns and less encumbered by the need for accuracy and detail. It allows football supporters—notoriously unwilling to contemplate a fictional world that deals in real clubs, competitions and players—to go with the flow.

Still, the plot is indeed beyond ludicrous. Two-time Oscar winner Caine, a prison of war and former West Ham star, is challenged to a kickabout by sympathetic German officer Von Sydow, seen most recently in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

The game is initially planned as a bit of fun between prisoners and officers—you know, the sort of fun prisoners of war and Nazis had all the time.

The affair soon escalates into a Nazi propaganda stunt, and a showpiece match is planned between PoWs representing the Allies and a Germany XI in occupied Paris. The PoWs are threatened with execution should they win.

The drama rests on three outcomes: Can Caine's team, cobbled together from a rag-tag selection of detainees and malnourished Eastern European talent, and with a comically inept Sly in goal, avoid worldwide humiliation against Germany's well-fed and -watered pretty boys? Will they defy orders to win? And perhaps most importantly, although never explicitly so: will the entire team be able to somehow escape?

It's the height of absurdity, and yet the tale is loosely based on the legend of FC Start from occupied Ukraine, who in 1942 took on a German XI in an encounter later known as The Death Match.

Start, who consisted mainly of former professionals from the temporarily disbanded Dynamo Kyiv, played several matches against teams of occupying German soldiers, winning them all convincingly; one game finished 11-0.

This repeated debunking of the Aryan superiority theory piqued the Nazi administration into ordering a high-profile exhibition against crack German team Flakelf. The game was on, albeit with caveats: The Nazis appointed one of their goons as referee, and intimated there would be severe repercussions should Start even contemplate the audacity of winning.

Naturally, Start defiantly won 5-3, the final indignity for the Nazis coming when defender Olexi Klimenko rounded the German keeper in the dying seconds and, instead of rolling the ball into the net for a sixth goal, disdainfully kicked it back up the pitch.

A week later, after Start had won another match 8-0, the team were rounded up and sent to Siretz labour camp. Five of the team were tortured, then shot. This true-ish story—the exact details remain much disputed—was in turn the inspiration for a 1961 Hungarian movie, *The Last Goal*.

Pele shows off his skills to the cast of *Escape to Victory*.

This film told the story of concentration camp inmates who were forced to form a team to face a German side for a celebration of Adolf Hitler's birthday. The narrative arc is much the same as *Escape to Victory*: They were ordered to lose, opted to win and paid with their lives. *The Last Goal* was successful internationally, so much so that an equally popular remake was filmed in the Soviet Union.

Enter Hollywood and Huston. In a pleasing symmetry, *Escape to Victory* was filmed in Hungary.

Huston, while past his best at age 74, was nevertheless still an A-list director, a living legend with a body of work including classics such as *The Maltese Falcon*, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Key Largo*, *The Asphalt Jungle*, *The African Queen* and *The Misfits*.

He once attributed most of his success to his actors, famously suggesting that "90 per cent of directing is casting;" over the years, he worked with the likes of Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn, Clark Gable and Marilyn Monroe.

Penny for his thoughts, then, when in *Escape to Victory* he had to coax lines out of England's 1966 World Cup-winning captain Moore, former Manchester City midfielder Mike Summerbee, several members of Ipswich Town's contemporary UEFA Cup-winning squad and Brazilian legend Pele, fresh from his time in New York hanging out at Studio 54 (and occasionally playing soccer for the Cosmos).

To be fair, Caine and Stallone are hardly in the Laurence Olivier league when it

comes to expressive oratory either. Pele at least had the excuse of not working in his first language.

The footballers were not left to flounder in a strange environment without support. Their collective confidence was boosted by Caine, who gave an on-set acting masterclass: "Just say the lines."

Ipswich and England defender Russell Osman was inspired enough to be charged with a pivotal zinger. "We can win this!" he jabbers during half-time of the big match, as the team consider whether to nip off down an inviting escape tunnel in the changing room, freshly excavated by members of the French Resistance, or go back out for the second half and attempt to overturn a 4-1 deficit.

"Please, Hatch," Pele adds as Stallone's character contemplates making off down the tunnel. "That game means a lot to us. ... If you run now, we lose more than a game." Which you can dismiss as a trite platitude if you like, but the man knew a little of what he was talking about, having delivered the 1970 World Cup to a grateful nation suffering under the yoke of a military junta.

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In Color
"VICTORY"
A Paramount Picture

Slyvester Stallone played a PoW goalkeeper in *Escape to Victory*.

Summerbee hovers in the thick of it, consistently in shot, the one player entrusted not to ham it up too much or mess up his lines with a jarring clunk. He's the one who follows Osman's emotional exhortations with a level-headed "It's not as though we're being slaughtered, skipper!" to Caine, and who begs Stallone to save the crucial penalty kick at the end.

"Come on, Hatch, come on," he mutters at the film's dramatic climax, just before...ah, but we promised no spoilers. He's even given some comedic license, reacting to Moore's tinder-dry observation that the camp huts are like the Savoy Hotel with a pithy rejoinder: "And no bleedin' chambermaid!"

Perhaps Huston had been tipped off by industry insiders about Summerbee's previous experiences in front of camera. In 1963, he'd been part of a Swindon Town team filmed going about their day-to-day business by BBC West. The resulting documentary, *Six Days to Saturday*, was a strangely compelling study of dreary professional life in sleepy suburban Wiltshire. Summerbee was filmed purchasing a bag of boiled sweets from the newsagent.

"How much is that?"

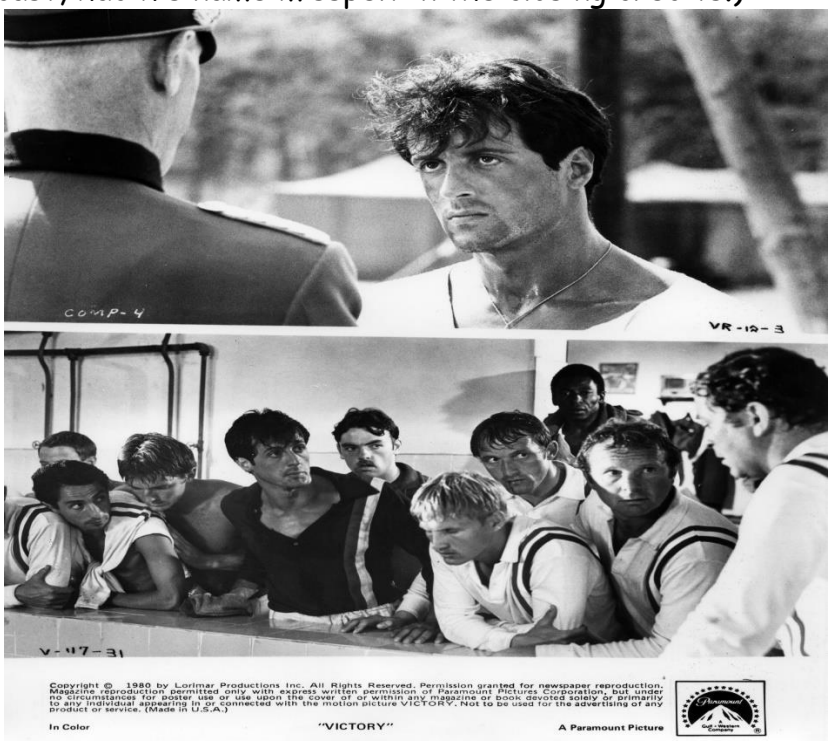
"Seven pence, please."

Pele in action during *Escape to Victory*'s climactic clash between PoWs and a team of Nazi guards.

"Six pence, seven pence—I ain't half put some money into this business of yours, haven't I? I should be a shareholder now. ... [Opens bag of sweets.] Do you want one?"

This charming slice of cinema verite was directed by John Boorman, who nine years later gave us Deliverance, another movie that explored themes of male bonding, albeit in a more outre fashion. But, again, we digress. It's true that *Escape to Victory* is an erratic movie. Stallone's first escape from camp, for example, a slow-motion crawl through a gap in the ceiling, has all the dramatic suspense of *The Breakfast Club*'s John Bender crawling back for the marijuana he'd stashed down Brian Johnson's trousers.

On the flip side, the scene in which Caine is forced to break his regular goalkeeper's arm so Stallone can take his place in the team is brutal and genuinely iconic—once seen, never forgotten. "Try and make it a clean break, will ya?" pleads the keeper, resting his arm over a gap in the slats of his bunk bed, Caine's boot about to come crashing down.
The camera pans away, all carnage implied, a trick up there with Michael Madsen's ear-hacking antics in *Reservoir Dogs*. (The hapless keeper was played by Kevin O'Callaghan, a young winger on the fringes of the Ipswich team who, as well as being miscast, had his name misspelt in the closing credits.)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In Color
"VICTORY"
A Paramount Picture

Top: Sylvester Stallone is confronted by a German officer. Bottom: Stallone and team-mates listen to advice from Michael Caine.

The actual football scenes—choreographed by Pele—have come in for some hefty criticism over the years, but surely only by folk who haven't seen the movie since it was regularly transmitted on BBC1 at Christmas during the 1980s.

The play isn't particularly fast-paced, it's true, but then there wasn't a whole lot of gegenpressing going on back in the 1940s. The passing is convincing enough: One disallowed Allies strike was a particularly fluid move, culminating in a shot battered against the post by Kazimierz Deyna—who captained Poland to third place at the 1974 World Cup—and followed up with aplomb by Osman, walking it like he talked it.

The roughhouse tackling puts the modern Premier League fancy-dans to shame—Co Prins and Pele both cop for full-on clatterings—though the current trend for woeful defending will make the movie more relatable. Liverpool fans in particular may smile wryly as an exasperated Caine tries to explain rudimentary positioning at corner kicks to Stallone—they're bound to glumly recognize shades of the Klopp-Mignolet dynamic.

At one point, Ardiles of Argentina—along with Pele and Moore, one of three World Cup winners in the film—hits a penalty kick so sweetly there's barely a sound when ball leaves boot. Like the longest drives in golf, the power's all in the timing.

An injured Pele, despite having been bashed around by the Bosch, scores with a bicycle kick that wouldn't have looked out of place in all that sun-drenched footage from Mexico 1970. And if you really want attention to detail, captain Caine's first act of the team's first training session is to fling the ball away contemptuously. "We won't be needing that for a while," he tells his men before ordering them to run, run, run. Because who needs to practise their ball skills? Old-school British preparation, right there.

Michael Caine and Pele lead the celebration in *Escape to Victory*.

So, there are enough nods to realism packed in there—more than the groupthinkers would have you believe, anyway. But even if you consider all the action egregious nonsense...well...so what?

Moore crosses to Pele, who sends a bicycle kick whistling into the top corner. In the last minute. Against some Nazis. As the crowd crank up a defiant chat of "VIC-TOIRE." Please don't let your inner child die.

In any case, it's not meant to be a docudrama. It's a slice of Hollywood from one of the golden-age greats; while shot in the early 1980s is really a 1950s film at heart, with all the classic narrative structure and stylistic convention that entails. So go with it: on its own terms, the greatest football movie ever made.

Visit to watch the trailer of the Film

https://youtu.be/Bm5okClSlH4

PELE : World Cup Legend

https://www.givemesport.com/88072273-qatar-2022-the-story-of-how-pele-became-a-world-cup-legend

The story of how Pele became a World Cup legend

By Steven Scragg

Published: 19 Oct 2022, 11:15

When Pelé headed to Sweden for the 1958 World Cup finals, he was still over four months short of his 18th birthday, and just two years on from being handed his first professional contract by his club side, Santos.

So prodigious was his unbridled talent, it had taken Pelé only ten months to travel the distance between his debut for Santos and his first representation for Brazil, when still only at the age of 16 he took to the Maracanã to make a

goalscoring contribution in a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Argentina.

With strength and power that seemed beyond his tender years, **Pelé** was blessed with not only bewitching skills, but also a magical sense of balance and timing, to go along with focus, discipline, and a self-determination that was impossible for anybody else to replicate.

Brazil was not short of attacking players that possessed the most outrageous skills imaginable, with the legendary Garrincha at the apex of a very big pyramid, but not one of them boasted the broad ranging package that Pelé possessed.

After making his international bow against **Argentina**, Pelé would play for **Brazil** a further four times before the big kick off in Sweden, with the rotund, but visionary Vicente Feola making the now 17-year-old the youngest member of his 22-man squad.

Brazil had to conquer their World Cup mental block

By 1958, the **World Cup** had become a seemingly insurmountable mental block for Brazil.

In attendance for every finals tournament since the World Cup's inception, the semi-final had been reached in 1938, when the iconic Leônidas da Silva inspired his teammates to a third-placed finish, after narrowly being edged out in the last-four by the holders, Italy, and having survived the infamous Battle of Bordeaux in the quarter-final against Czechoslovakia.

Denied by World War 2 of another attempt on the World Cup until 1950, as hosts Brazil were left heartbroken in the deciding game against Uruguay, when falling to a 2-1 loss at a frighteningly overcrowded Maracanã.

Four years later, in Switzerland, the Seleção lost out once more, this time in another game of violent intent, one which was christened The Battle of Bern, where Brazil was outfought and outthought by the incredible Mighty Magyars.

So, by the time Pelé set off for Sweden, he was leaving behind a nation that were braced for more despair to come, a sense of peril that was only heightened when in the draw Brazil were shepherded into a prototype Group of Death alongside Austria, England, and the Soviet Union.

Austria had been the home to one of the most potent football powerbases of the 1930s, while despite their dysfunctional showings at the two previous World Cups, England was the birthplace of the game, and the Soviets were viewed as terrifying supermen.

Little in the way of hope for success was given by the Brazilian populace, but without Pelé and Garrincha, Feola's team swept an idealess Austria aside, and played out an overly respectful goalless draw with England.

How Pele inspired Brazil

Then came the masterplan, as Pelé and Garrincha were brought into the team to face the fearsome Soviets, where

they brought the excellent Vavá to life, easing to a 2-0 victory in Gothenburg that surprised even themselves.

From here, Pelé and Brazil went stratospheric, as he scored the only goal of the quarter-final against a stubborn Wales, tying Mel Charles and Stuart Williams in knots before prodding the ball home; this was then followed by them running five past a magnificent France in the semi-final, Pelé helping himself to a second half hat-trick, his third goal of which was undeniably the pick.

An unstoppable confidence having built, both personally and collectively, Pelé and his teammates scored five more times in the final itself, against the hosts. Sweden had even had the temerity to open the scoring thanks to the legendary Nils Liedholm, yet there was to be no falling into the patterns of an unfulfilled past however, as Brazil cruised to a 5-2 victory with Pelé scoring two beautiful second half goals.

With the world at his feet, four years later the 21-year-old Pelé was widely recognised as the best footballer on the face of the planet, as he headed to Chile for the defence of the Jules Rimet Trophy. In Brazil's opening game, against Mexico in Viña del Mar, Pelé was central to everything, laying on the first goal for Mário Zagallo, before slaloming his way past four opponents to net the second.

Three days later however, against Czechoslovakia, Pelé tore a thigh muscle when attempting a shot from distance. It was an innocuous but damaging moment, and it ended his involvement in the 1962 World Cup, although Brazil

responded well from the blow, as his replacement, Amarildo, helped Aymoré Moreira's team to retain the trophy.

Still only 25 as he headed into his third World Cup, Pelé was reunited with Feola once more, as Brazil's 1958 World Cup winning coach returned to take the team to England in 1966. Yet, there would be no repeat of the success from Sweden.

Just as in Chile, Pelé was central to Brazil's winning start to the 1966 World Cup, scoring with a beautifully taken free kick against Bulgaria at Goodison Park. It was though a win which came at a cost, as the abrasive approach taken by Pelé's markers – which went largely unpunished by the referee – was enough to rule him out of Brazil's second game, against Hungary, a fixture they lost in their star player's absence.

It was an only tenuously fit Pelé who then took to the pitch for a win or bust clash with the Eusébio inspired Portugal. João Morais would be the villain of the piece, with two horrendous tackles that left the Brazil number ten nothing

more than a pedestrian. As Feola's side exited the tournament, Pelé's response was to announce he would never again play in a World Cup.

Mexico in 1970 would prove too much of a temptation for Pelé however, and football culture as we know it was all the better for the reversal of his 1966 decision.

From the chest control and finish, or even the effort from Pelé's own half that narrowly missed against Czechoslovakia, to 'that' lay-off for Jairzinho and 'that' save he forced from Gordon Banks against England, the swerve of his free kick against Romania, his unselfishness against Peru, his incredulous dummy in the semi-final against Uruguay, when he went to the right of the goalkeeper, Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, as the ball went to the left, only to roll it agonisingly wide after the two were reunited, or the height he attained when opening the scoring, and the laconic ball he rolled to Carlos Alberto for Brazil's fourth, both in the final against Italy, it all dripped in World Cup iconography.

The literal pain suffered by Pelé in 1962 and 1966 were bookended by the most hypnotic of World Cup moments in 1958 and 1970, the former as a boy, the latter as a man, where he became the tournament's benchmark.

World Cup

Qatar 2022 : Schedule of Matches

World Cup 2022 Dates

The 2022 FIFA World Cup will take place between **Monday 21st November 2022 and Sunday 18th December 2022**.

World Cup 2022 Schedule

Here is the official schedule for the 2022 World Cup that has been pencilled in by FIFA:

- **Group stage:** Monday 21st November until Friday 2nd December
- **Round of 16**: Saturday 3rd December until Tuesday 6th December
- **Quarter-finals**: Saturday 9th December and Sunday 10th December
- **Semi-finals**: Tuesday 13th December and Wednesday 14th December
- **Third-place Play-off**: Saturday 17th December
- **Final**: Sunday 18th December

World Cup 2022 UK Kick Off Times

The UK kick-off times are as follows:

- **Group stage**: 10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm GMT.
- **Final round of Group games and knock-out matches**: 3 pm and 7 pm GMT.
- **Final:** 3 pm GMT.

List of Stadiums

Eight stadiums have been selected to host games across the competition and are as follows:

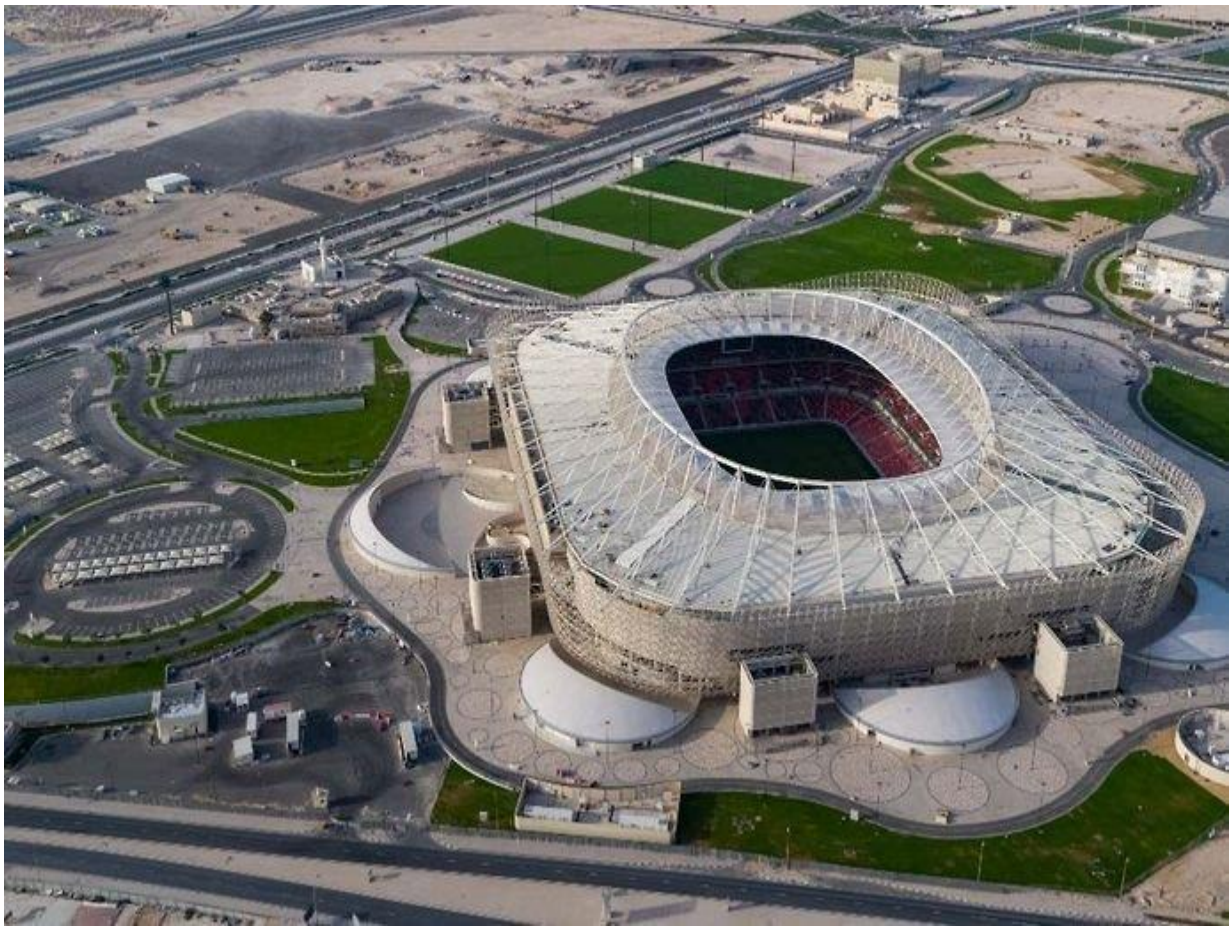
Al Khor

Capacity: 60,000

Matches:

- Group Games x5
- Round of 16 x1
- Quarter-Final x1
- Semi-Final x1

Al Rayyan

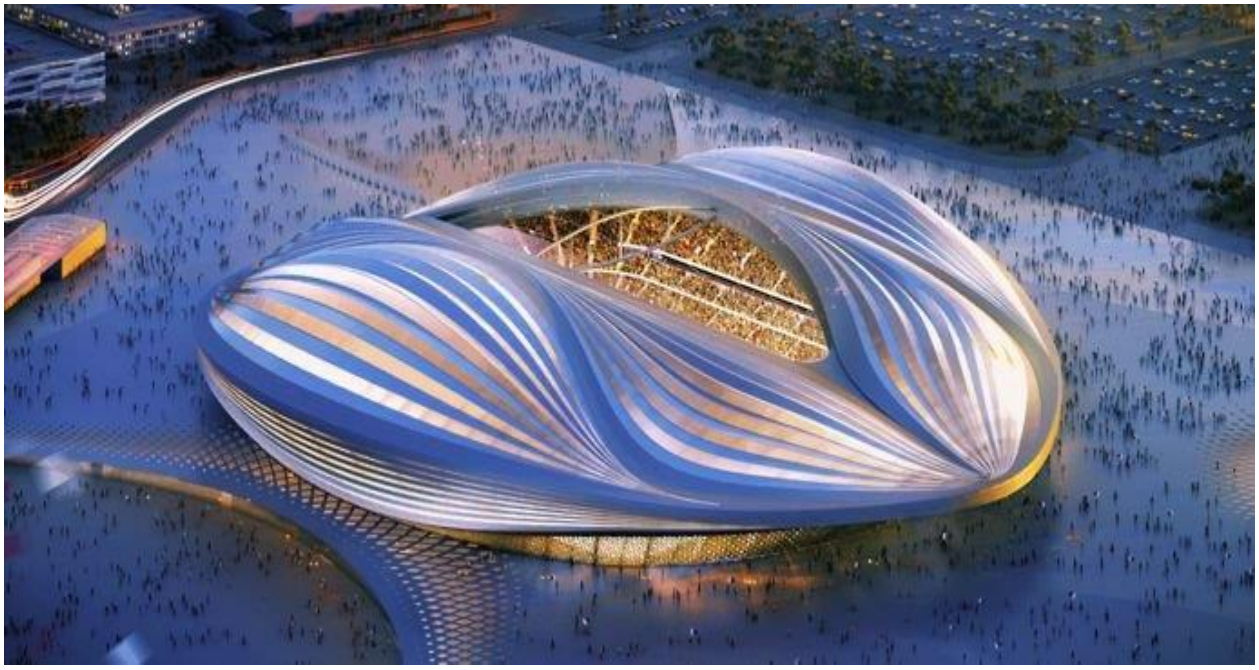


Capacity: 40,000

Matches:

- Group Games x5
- Round of 16 x1

Al Wakrah



Capacity: 40,000

Matches:

- Group Games x5
- Round of 16 x1

Doha (Al Thumama Stadium)

Capacity: 40,000

Matches

- Group Games x5
- Round of 16 x1
- Quarter-Final x1

Doha (Khalifa International Stadium)

Capacity: 40,000

Matches

- Group Matches x5
- Round of 16 x1
- Third-place Play-Off

Doha (Education City Stadium)

Capacity: 40,000

Matches

- Group Games x5
- Round of 16 x1
- Quarter-Final x1

Lusail

Capacity: 80,000

Matches

- Group matches x5
- Round of 16 x1
- Quarter-Final x1
- Semi-Final x1
- Final

Ras Abu Aboud

Capacity: 40,000

Matches

- Group Matches x5
- Round of 16 x1

World Cup 2022 Groups

The Group Stage draw for the World Cup has finally happened and we now know the groups for the tournament. Here they are in full:

Group A

- Qatar
- Ecuador

- Senegal
- Netherlands

Group B

- England
- Iran
- USA
- Wales

Group C

- Argentina
- Saudi Arabia
- Mexico
- Poland

Group D

- France
- Australia
- Denmark
- Tunisia

Group E

- Spain
- Costa Rica
- Germany
- Japan

Group F

- Belgium
- Canada
- Croatia
- Morocco

Group G

- Brazil
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Cameroon

Group H

- Portugal
- Ghana
- Uruguay
- South Korea

World Cup 2022 Odds

Here are some prices that various bookmakers are offering so far (as of 24th October 2022):

- **Brazil:** 4/1
- **France:** 6/1
- **Argentina:** 13/2
- **England:** 7/1
- **Spain:** 8/1
- **Germany:** 9/1
- **Netherlands:** 12/1
- **Belgium:** 14/1
- **Portugal:** 16/1
- **Denmark:** 28/1
- **Uruguay:** 40/1
- **Croatia:** 50/1
- **Switzerland:** 66/1
- **Mexico:** 80/1
- **Senegal:** 80/1
- **Ecuador:** 100/1
- **Serbia:** 100/1
- **Poland:** 150/1
- **USA:** 150/1
- **Wales:** 150/1
- **Cameroon:** 250/1
- **Iran:** 250/1
- **Japan:** 250/1
- **Morocco:** 250/1
- **South Korea:** 250/1
- **Australia:** 500/1
- **Canada:** 500/1
- **Ghana:** 500/1
- **Qatar:** 500/1
- **Tunisia:** 500/1
- **Costa Rica:** 750/1
- **Saudi Arabia:** 750/1

World Cup : 10 Stadiums

https://www.givemesport.com/88071897-qatar-2022-the-10-greatest-stadiums-in-world-cup-history-featuring-wembley?utm_source=thumbnail&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=related-stories

The 10 greatest World Cup stadiums ever

Many have struggled to make this tournament go ahead on time and in the best possible fashion. One can only hope that the people that made this tournament happen and their families are fairly compensated once the World Cup is complete.

The stadiums in Qatar this year will join many from decades gone by to have the prestige of hosting a World Cup match. Since 1930, several majestic venues have hosted great World Cup games, had memorable moments and seen wonderful footballers have some of their best times on a pitch.

With that said, here are 10 of the greatest stadiums from the last 92 years to have hosted a World Cup match.

10. Estadio Monumental, Buenos Aires

Like many big stadiums in South America, the Monumental in Buenos Aires is intense. Its round shape and steep stands tend to create a fine atmosphere, and

that was on display in the controversial World Cup of 1978, hosted and won by Argentina, who won football's premier competition for the very first time.

River Plate, who play at the stadium, were given a grant to build the venue but struggled to pay for it once it was complete, affecting their performances in later years, but this will always be a memorable venue for many Argentines. They

hosted eight matches, including the final, as Argentina beat the Netherlands 3-1 after extra-time, with Mario Kempes scoring a double.

9. Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow

Russia were given the hosting rights of the 2018 World Cup some eight years prior, and it was always set in stone that the Luzhniki would host the final, adding to its impressive portfolio. Previously, it had hosted opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympic Games, the Champions League final, UEFA Cup final and various key winter sports events.

In all, they hosted seven matches all tournament, and had the misfortune of hosting the only goalless match of that year's competition between France and Denmark. They also had Russia's greatest World Cup win against Spain in the Round of 16, as well as Croatia's 2-1 win over England in the semi-final before the final as France beat the Croats 4-2.

8. Olympiastadion, Berlin

Like the Luzhniki, the Olympiastadion in Berlin also had an Olympic history, although perhaps not the proudest one. In 1974, the Olympiastadion hosted its first World Cup tournament, having three matches there, including one from each of the Germanys, East and West. It would be 32 years before Germany, now unified, would host a World Cup again.

The Olympiastadion was selected for the final for the 2006 tournament, and it got a top contest between France and Italy, marking Zinedine Zidane's final career match and a shocking head-butt. Italy won the whole tournament, and across the month, the Olympiastadion hosted six matches, including two German wins, one of which was the quarter-final against Argentina.

7. Soccer City, Johannesburg

The continent of Africa got to host the World Cup for the very first time in 2010 and they had a great host for the final: Soccer City in Johannesburg. Renovated for the tournament, the stadium held eight matches throughout the month, with some of the world's best teams playing including Spain, Argentina, Germany and Brazil.

They even had the quarter-final between Ghana and Uruguay, shrouded by Luis Suarez's notorious hand-ball incident, and then had the final between Spain and the Netherlands, as a first-time winner would be crowned. Andres Iniesta's late winner is one of the most famous goals in the tournament's history, and the ideal way for Soccer City to be remembered.

6. Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid

Seventeen stadiums across 14 cities is a record for a World Cup in one country, but that is what Spain managed in 1982 when they hosted the tournament. Still, it was the majestic Santiago Bernabeu that got the final, having hosted three matches before that all tournament, two of which included Spain.

Although it's great in sight, the action on the pitch perhaps wasn't the best, as two of the four matches were goalless draws, with Spain even losing there once, falling to West Germany. The final, though, was a spectacle, as Italy ran out 3-1 winners, winning their third world title and preventing the Germans from adding to their two.

5. Estadio Centenario, Montevideo

The Centenario will always have the honour of hosting the first-ever World Cup final, as the 90,000-seater arena saw Uruguay beat South American rivals Argentina 4-2 in the match. They hosted 10 matches in all in that year's competition, including both semi-finals, and 43 goals were scored in all across those games.

Built in 1929 for the tournament, the venue has a strong history and in 1983, it was declared by FIFA as the first Historical Monument of World Football, the only stadium to have that honour. They're hoping to bring the tournament back to Uruguayan soil in 2030, 100 years on from the first World Cup, in what would be a worthy occasion.

4. San Siro, Milan

This is the only stadium on this list to have not hosted a World Cup final, which only explains how incredible the San Siro truly is. Hosting games in the 1990 World Cup, the Milanese stadium is one of the game's greatest, with its steep stands, mighty terraces and ability to create an excellent atmosphere widely admired by the sport's fans.

The San Siro, renovated massively for this tournament, like many other venues in the build-up, hosted six matches in that World Cup, including five of West Germany's games and Argentina's feisty encounter against Cameroon. West Germany and Argentina ended up meeting in the final, as the European nation won their third World Cup.

3. Wembley Stadium, London

Wembley has really done it all. England's national stadium has hosted Champions League finals, European Championship finals for both the men and women, domestic finals ranging from the FA Cup to the League Cup, but its brightest moment came in 1966, when England played West Germany in their first and, to date, only, World Cup final.

This was English football's biggest moment, and they took the chance with both hands as they beat one of their oldest rivals 4-2 to win the World Cup. Wembley hosted five matches in that World Cup, but none bigger than the final. Football came home that year, and they

couldn't have picked a better venue than Wembley to win the sport's premier tournament.

2. Estadio Azteca, Mexico City

It's rare to see one stadium host two World Cup finals, but the Azteca in Mexico has that unique honour, having held the 1970 and 1986 finals, both famous in its own regard. Brazil's great team of 1970 sealed the tournament that year, led by the indubitable Pele while 16 years later, it was Diego Maradona's chance to lead Argentina to a second World Cup triumph.

But, despite seeing two of the game's all-time greats have their finest hour at this stadium, the World Cup finals perhaps aren't its two biggest moments. That would come in the 1986 quarter-final between Argentina and England, as Maradona scored two of the World Cup's most famous goals: the Hand of God, and minutes later, the Goal of the Century.

1. Estadio Maracana, Rio de Janeiro

Like the Azteca, the Maracana has also hosted two World Cup finals (or deciders, in this case), and despite being in the home of the tournament's most successful nation, it's never seen Brazil win the World Cup. The first came in 1950, as Uruguay pipped Brazil to a tournament win which set the nation into meltdown, in one of the most shocking World Cup moments ever.

The second came in 2014, as Germany beat Argentina through Mario Gotze's extra-time winner. Seeing their fiercest rivals win the World Cup on their soil would've been a sour feeling for the Brazilians, so there was plenty of backing for Germany, who had beaten Brazil 7-1 in the semi-final. Still, the Maracana, overseen by the Christ the Redeemer statue, is an iconic venue.

New York Cosmos v. Mohun Bagan

at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata

Edson Arantes do Nascimento aka **Pele** is one of the greatest players to step on a football pitch.

Having led Brazil to as many as three FIFA World Cups (1958, 1962 and 1970), Pele's legend is beyond reproach.

"Unfortunately, you never made it to the Olympic Games, but nevertheless, you are an Olympic athlete because you have been living the Olympic values in all your career," Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, once said about the Brazilian.

These very values were evident in the first of his two visits to India in 1977.

Playing for the famous **New York Cosmos**, Pele flew down to Kolkata - the homeland of the beautiful game in India - to take on Indian

giants **Mohun Bagan** in a friendly tie at the Eden Gardens on September 25.

The Brazilian, who led the *Selecao* to three World Cup titles, was in his final year as a professional footballer when the Indian tour came about. So, the football-crazy people of Kolkata lapped up the opportunity and did everything to get a glimpse of the man who they have mostly seen on television or in the pages of sports magazines.
"Lakhs of people gathered outside the Dum Dum Airport to greet the Brazilian legend. There were also teeming crowds outside his hotel in central Kolkata, waiting to catch a glimpse of the only man who had won three World Cups for his team," football historian Novy Kapadia recounted the incident in his book, *Barefoot to Boots.*

And it was no surprise that about 80,000-odd spectators filled the Eden Gardens to see Pele and his New York Cosmos side that had Brazilian World Cup-winner **Carlos Alberto** and Italian **Giorgio Chinaglia** in it.

Despite overnight rains rendering the pitch almost unplayable, Pele ensured that he gave the Indian fans what they were waiting for. The Brazilian, who played for just 30 minutes, entertained the crowd with his sleek footwork against a gritty Mohun Bagan team, coached by the legendary late **PK Banerjee**.

Having roped in quality talent in **Subhas Bhowmick**, **Shyam Thapa** and **Surajit Sengupta** from city rivals East Bengal a season prior, Mohun Bagan too was up to the task and surprisingly took the

lead in the 18th and the 33rd minutes. But the visitors equalised on both the occasions as the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

Mohun Bagan's **Mohammed Habib** was the standout player of the match, and Pele ensured that he personally congratulated the striker for his fine performance.

Match on 25 September 1977

It was Pele's penultimate match of his career. He stayed only a day in Kolkata and played his final match a week later.

Years later, in 2015, the Brazilian great was once again back in India, but this time as a chief guest at the Subroto Cup, a national-level inter-school competition.

His most recent visit was in 2018 during the Leadership Summit of India's national newspaper, the Hindustan Times. Pele was interviewed by India's best-known football face, ***Bhaichung Bhutia.***

History of Football

Football is undoubtedly the most popular sport in the world. But, how did it originate? Here, a brief Profile into the history of Football is provided.

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It is the greatest and most popular sport in the world. It is an industry worth billion and is watched on every continent on the globe. From toddlers kicking a ball whilst the try figures out their co-ordination through to adults who make a living from it, it is a sport that can be played by virtually anyone. Yet what is the history of the beautiful game? When did it begin? How has it developed over the years? What does the future hold for football?

When talking about the origins of football it's important to draw up a distinction between the game as we know it today and any sport that involved using your feet to kick a ball. That's because if you're talking purely about the latter then you'll travel all the way back to the second and third centuries BC in your search for a reference to a game played with the feet.

The Chinese military used to play a game called Tsu' Chu, which involved the kicking of a ball made of leather and filled with hair and feathers through a small opening and into a net. The player wasn't allowed to use their hands bud had to make use of their body in order to hold off opponents who were trying to put them off by jumping on top of them. So a lot like playing against a Tony Pulis team.

About 500 years later the Japanese invented a game called Kemari. This was less adversarial and more about working as a team to stop

the ball from touching the ground. Like a more organised version of keepie-uppie, this game is still played today.

During the medieval period in Europe, particularly in England, games were played in towns that pitted rival squads against one another. This was called Folkball. The goal was to place the ball into a designated area, usually the captain's house, to score a point. This would often entail a distance of a few miles between scoring destinations. Games typically resulted in low scoring matches as the process of advancing the ball would be brutal and without regard to one's well being. Without any set rules the game would cause massive commotion throughout the towns in which it was held, leading to its ban in the 14th century.

The most admitted story tells that the game was developed in England in the 12th century. In this century, games that resembled football were played on meadows and roads in England. Besides from kicks, the game involved also punches of the ball with the fist. This early form of football was also much more rough and violent than the modern way of playing.

An important feature of the forerunners to football was that the games involved plenty of people and took place over large areas in towns (an equivalent was played in Florence from the 16th century where it was called *Calcio*). The rampage of these games would cause damage on the town and sometimes death to the participants. These would be among the reasons for the proclamations against the game that finally was forbidden for several centuries. But the football-like games would return to the streets of London in the 17th century. It would be forbidden again in 1835, but at this stage the game had been established in the public schools.

It took, however, long time until the features of today's football had been taken into practice. For a long time there was no clear distinction between football and rugby. There were also many variations

concerning the size of the ball, the number of players and the length of a match.

The game was often played in schools and two of the predominant schools were Rugby and Eton. At Rugby the rules included the possibility to take up the ball with the hands and the game we today know as rugby has its origin from here. At Eton on the other hand the ball was played exclusively with the feet and this game can be seen as a close predecessor to the modern football. The game in Rugby was called "the running game" while the game in Eton was called "the dribbling game".

In 1863, official rules for football were drawn up to create an organized game in England. These rules formally differentiated between rugby football and association football. Hence, modern football was born.

Football is a game that involves kicking a ball made of leather and plastic towards the goal to earn a point. There are two teams consisting of 11 players each, who attempt to move the ball into the other team's goal with their feet or torso. The winning team is decided by the number of goals scored.

With over a billion fans globally, Football is the most watched and most popular sport in the world. It has a long and storied history. From its beginnings to its spread across the globe, it has evolved into one of the biggest sports around the world.

The game of Football has existed for centuries. The earliest versions of the games were played in villages before the Middle Ages, in accordance with regional customs. However, modern-day Football is said to have its origins in Great Britain almost two centuries ago.

The first football clubs

Football clubs have existed since the 15th century, but unorganized and without official status. It is therefore hard to decide which the first football club was. Some historians suggest that it was the Foot-Ball Club formed 1824 in Edinburgh. Early clubs were often formed by former school students and the first of this kind was formed in Sheffield in 1855. The oldest among professional football clubs is the English club Notts County that was formed in 1862 and still exists today.

An important step for the emergence of teams was the industrialization that led to larger groups of people meeting at places such as factories, pubs and churches. Football teams were established in the larger cities and the new railroads could bring them to other cities.

In the beginning, football was dominated by public school teams, but later, teams consisting by workers would make up the majority. Another change was successively taking place when some clubs became willing to pay the best players to join their team. This would be the start of a long period of transition, not without friction, in which the game would develop to a professional level.

The motivation behind paying players was not only to win more matches. In the 1880s the interest in the game has moved ahead to a level that tickets were sold to the matches. And finally, in 1885 professional football was legalized and three years later the **Football League** was established. During the first season, 12 clubs joined the league, but soon more clubs became interested and the competition would consequently expand into more divisions.

FIFA

Informal international matches between nations were held sporadically from then on, depending on the availability of the various

teams to play games. It wasn't until 1904 that The Fédération Internationale de Football Association was formed. FIFA, to give it its acronym, was originally devised to oversee matches played between the associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

FIFA expanded over the years, with England joining the organisation in 1905, South Africa in 1909, Argentina in 1912, Chile and Canada in 1913 and the United States of America in 1914. The first tournament that FIFA was responsible for was the football side of the 1908 London Olympic Games. The first FIFA World Cup, the organisation's flagship tournament, was held in 1930 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

FIFA is responsible for the overall operations of 211 national associations - a figure that is far too large to be controlled by one organisation. For that reason, each nation must also be part of one of six different regional confederations. These are the Asian Football Confederation, the Confederation of African Football, the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football, the Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol, the Oceania Football Confederation and the Union of European Football Associations.

UEFA is the largest of these with 55 members, of which England is one. UEFA was formed in 1954 and runs the European Championship tournament every four years, alternating with the World Cup to allow a two-year break between each. It also runs the most famous club competition in world football, the Champions League. Its smaller sister competition, the Europa League, also comes under UEFA's jurisdiction.

Here is a non-comprehensive look at football's timeline.

- **2nd or 3rd Century BC** - Chinese Military Invent Tsu' Chu
- **1409** - First Documented Use Of Word 'Football' In England
- **1581** - First Football Played In English Schools
- **1848** - Cambridge Rules Established

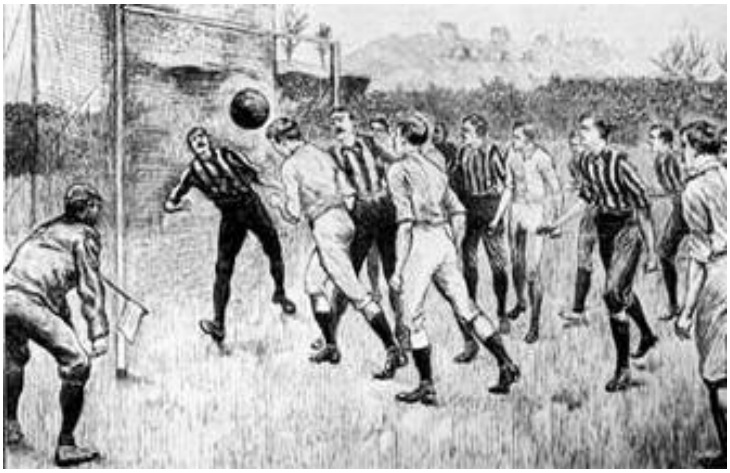
- **1857** - Sheffield Rules
- **1863** - Football Association Formed
- **1870** - First International Match Played
- **1871** - FA Cup Invented
- **1877** - Laws Of The Game Ratified
- **1888** - Football League Formed
- **1904** - FIFA Formed
- **1930** - First World Cup
- **1954** - UEFA Formed
- **1960** - First European Championships (Called European Nations Cup)
- **1985** - Heysel Stadium Disaster, English Clubs Banned From Europe
- **1989** - Hillsborough Disaster, Taylor Report Recommends Stadia Become All-Seater
- **1992** - Premier League Formed
- **2012** - Goalline Technology Used For The First Time

INTERNATIONAL
FOOT-BALL MATCH,
(ASSOCIATION RULES,)
ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND,
WEST OF SCOTLAND CRICKET GROUND
HAMILTON CRESCENT, PARTICK,
SATURDAY, 30th November, 1872, at 2 p.m.

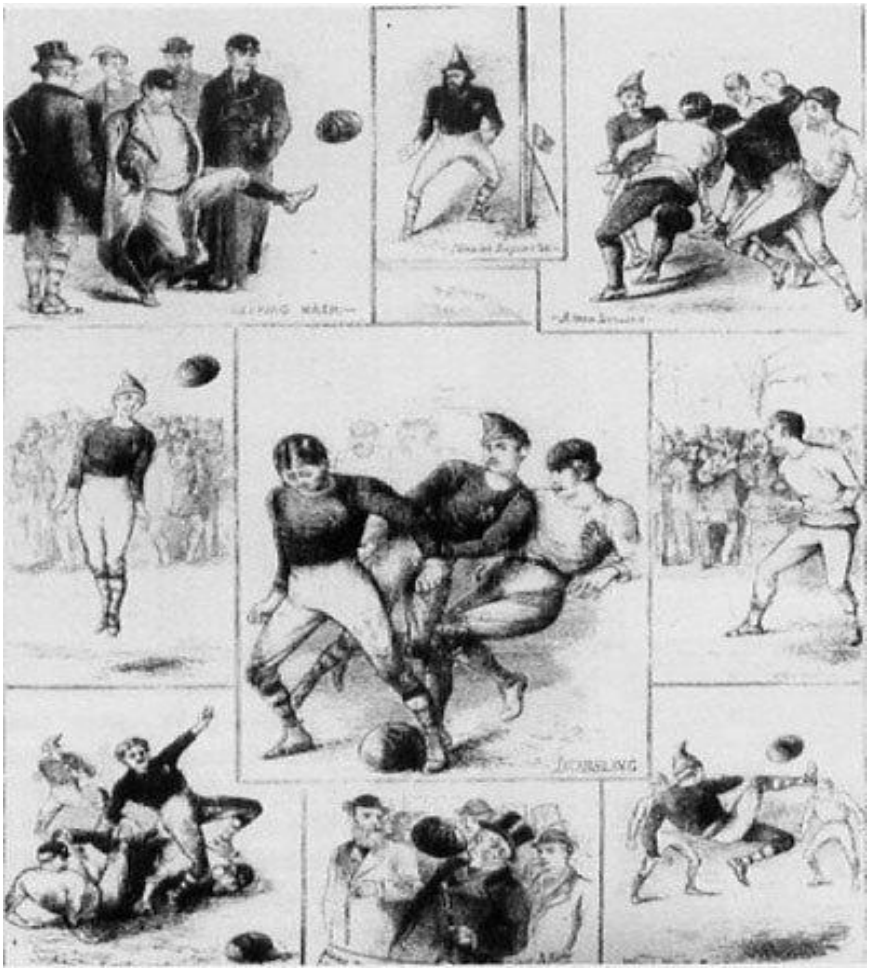
England v Scotland Match in 1872

Blackburn Rovers, FA Cup winners in 1883/84

Football Penalties introduced in 1891



Football played in ancient times



Please visit the following web pages:

01] https://www.footballhistory.org/

02] https://www.jagranjosh.com/general-knowledge/all-you-need-to-know-about-the-history-of-football-soccer-1665149457-1

03] https://www.football-stadiums.co.uk/articles/the-history-of-football/

04] https://snapsoccer.com/youth-soccer/a-brief-history-of-soccer/

05] https://bleacherreport.com/articles/65149-history-of-football-part-1-the-origins-of-football

06] https://www.iloveindia.com/sports/football/history.html

07] https://www.discountfootballkits.com/blog/a-brief-history-of-football/

08] https://www.webindia123.com/sports/football/football.htm

09] https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Association-Football-or-Soccer/

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Top TWENTY Brazilian Players

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Brazil has produced some of the most iconic players in the history of world football. From Pelé to Garrincha and Ronaldo to Kaká, the country has a back catalogue of stars that is scarcely believable.

No other nation can match it. For all of Italy, Germany or Argentina's great pedigree as footballing powers, they are no equal for Brazil in terms of star power and status.

Even now, there are children the planet over who know the names Zico and Socrates. They may have no idea where they played, or even who they were, but they have heard these names spoken of in hallowed terms by their elders.

Brazil's teams in 1958, 1970 and 1982 are widely mentioned in the context of the greatest footballing sides of all time. World Cup winning efforts in 1994 and 2002 also packed a punch on the star radar.

But, where do the individual players rank in relation to each other?

Without further hesitation, let's take a look at a list of Top 20 players in Brazil's football history.

20: Careca

A veteran of the 1986 and 1990 World Cups, Careca was a national champion in both Brazil and Italy in a career that took him from 1978 through to the late 1990s.

Having missed the 1982 World Cup through injury, Careca's early career was marked only by domestic success.

Before leaving for Italy in 1987, he would win the Brazilian championship with both Guarani and São Paulo. For the latter of those titles, in 1986, he finished as the Brasileirão's top scorer with 25 league goals and was voted *Placar* magazine's Player of the Year.

That same year, though, he would spring to wider attention as the second top-scorer at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, before moving to Serie A giants Napoli the following season. He would later add two more World Cup goals to his tally in 1990.

At Napoli, he would form an effective partnership with Argentine superstar Diego Maradona, who would lead the club to unprecedented success. In 1989, the Partenopei would secure the only continental title in their history by winning the UEFA Cup, while the Italian Serie A title followed a year later.

Following Maradona's departure from the club, Careca would later strike up a partnership with a young Gianfranco Zola, before moving on to Japan in 1993. He would spend three years there with Kashiwa Reysol, before returning to Brazil with Santos in 1997

19: Heleno De Freitas

Heleno de Freitas is as famous in Brazil for his off-pitch antics as he is for his performances on it. However, when it comes to his on-pitch performance, there are few who could claim to be his equal.

The biggest idol in the pre-Garrincha history of Botafogo, Heleno scored 209 goals in 235 matches for the Carioca giants between 1940 and 1948.

It was at this point in his career that he was selected to play at international level, starring at the 1945 South American championship, where he scored six goals. He would end his international career with 19 goals in just 18 games.

In 1948, in what was the biggest transfer in the history of South American football, he moved to Argentine giants Boca Juniors. However, his time at the club would last just one year.

At 30, he would achieve state championship success with Vasco da Gama upon his return to Brazil, but failed to hold down a spell of any notable duration at any of his remaining clubs.

The tall, elegant striker's career was on a downward spiral as personal issues began to take full effect.

From early in his career, he had endured problems with drug addiction, while his famed love of women ultimately led to his demise.

Heleno died in 1959, aged 39, having spent his final years in a hospice after contracting syphilis, which led to madness.

Sadly, he was denied the chance to represent his country at a World Cup due to the competition's absence during the Second World War.

18: Clodoaldo

A World Cup winner in 1970, Clodoaldo is widely regarded as one of the greatest defensive midfielders ever to play the game.

A Santos supporter, Clodoaldo joined the club in 1963, aged just 13, and would remain with the Peixe until 1980, playing on 510 occasions for the historic Alvinegro outfit.

Clodoaldo is best remembered as a skillful defensive midfielder who brought great composure to the base of the team's attack. He was also renowned for his marking ability.

Sadly, having achieved glory in 1970, he would not have the opportunity to defend his World Cup title, missing the 1974 tournament after picking up an injury just 10 days ahead of the event.

It would mark the end of his international career, aged 25.

To add to his World Cup, Clodoaldo would also add five state championships, a national title (Roberto Gomes Pedrosa) and a Intercontinental Super Cup with Santos.

The highlight of his 38 international caps may have been a 1970 semi-final goal in victory over Uruguay. However, he is best remembered for the piece of skill captured in the video, which sparked possibly the greatest World Cup goal ever.

17: Júnior

Two-footed, skillful, a brilliant long-passer of the ball and a feared set-piece taker, 70-cap left-back Júnior was an integral part of the Brazil side for an entire generation in the 1980s.

He is best remembered, at least to the international audience, for his role at the 1982 World Cup where he played all five fixtures for the Seleção, that team is often regarded as one the greatest footballing sides in history, despite failing in their quest for glory.

Sadly, Júnior would never achieve World Cup success but, at club level, would achieve much during his two spells at Flamengo in particular.

Between 1974 and 1993, Júnior played a club record of 865 matches for the Rubro-Negro, helping his side win a Copa Libertadores, an Intercontinental Cup, four Brazilian championships and a Copa do Brazil in that period.

In 1992, as testament to his ability, Júnior was voted best player of the Brasileirão at the age of 38, by that time appearing as a midfielder.

16: Didi

Another Botafogo icon, central midfielder Didi was a double World Cup winner in 1958 and 1962, having also played in the 1954 edition.

"The Ethiopian prince," as he was nicknamed by playwright Nelson Rodrigues, was famed for his stamina, composure and laid-back demeanour in a career that brought 62 international caps.

Besides his classy, languid midfield style, he also became famed for his free-kick striking ability, or the so-called "folha seca" (dry/falling leaf) technique. He would strike the ball in such a manner that it would dip suddenly on its approach to goal, with the style proving successful throughout his career.

In Brazil, Didi would win four Rio de Janeiro state championships (three of which came with Botafogo), as well as a national title in 1962.

A brief stint with Real Madrid would also see him collect a European Cup winners medal in 1959-60. However, it was his Player of the Tournament award at the 1958 World Cup that would go down as his greatest achievement.

Off the pitch, Didi is also famed for coining the phrase "the beautiful game," although that claim remains contested.

15: Tostão

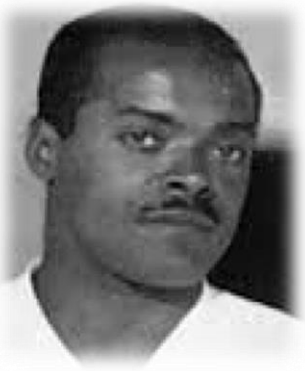
A World Cup winner in 1970, Tostão is perhaps the greatest player in the history of Minas Gerais giants Cruzeiro.

Tostão made his Brazil debut in May 1966, earning a late place in his country's 22-man squad for the World Cup in England just a month later. He would score in his only appearance of the tournament, a Pelé-less 3-1 defeat to Hungary.

With 10 goals in qualifying, Tostão was Brazil's top-scorer in qualifying for the 1970 World Cup and struck up a fine partnership with Pelé following Garrincha's exit from the international scene. At the tournament itself, supported by Gérson and top-scorer Jairzinho, the duo helped fire Brazil to a third world title.

Unfortunately, following complications suffered after a detached retina in 1969, Tostão was forced to retire in 1973. He was yet to turn 27. The "vice-Rei" (vice-king) to "O Rei" Pelé, Tostão would still go down as one of Brazil's greats.

He finished his Cruzeiro career with 249 goals to his name in 373 matches and, to date, is still the club's top-scorer of all-time.



14: Leônidas

Known as the "Black Diamond," Leônidas was one of the most important Brazilian football players of the early 20th century.

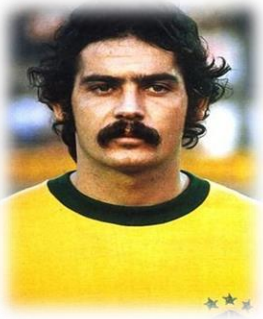
The forward, famed for his use of the bicycle kick, was one of the greatest Brazilian goalscorers of his era and, but for the World War, would have surely played in more than two World Cups.

In 1934 and 1938, though, he did have that opportunity and he finished the latter as top-scorer, scoring seven times in five appearances. It was at the event that he brought the bicycle kick to wider attention.

Initially playing as an inside-right, before developing into a fine centre-forward, his major breakthrough came at Bonsucesso, before moving on to enjoy successful spells at Peñarol (Uruguay), Vasco da Gama and Botafogo. He would become Rio de Janeiro state champion with both the latter two sides.

Late in his career, though, he would enjoy prolonged spells at Flamengo (153 goals in 149 games) and São Paulo (141 goals in 212 games). At the latter, Leônidas would win the São Paulo state championship on a remarkable five occasions between 1943-49.

Leônidas would eventually retire in 1951 having scored in every World Cup match in which he featured. In total, he played 15 official games for Brazil, scoring on 16 occasions. (Sambafoot)



13: Rivellino

The "Reizinho do Parque" (Little King of the Parque São Jorge), Rivellino refined his footballing skills by playing futsal as a boy, before joining and making his name in football at Corinthians.

Famed for his "Elastico" dribble, as seen in the video, the attacking midfielder used his excellent close control to great effect in the 11-man game. Contrary to popular belief, Rivellino himself denies inventing the move.

A key member of the Brazil side for nearly a decade, the 1970 World Cup winner would also go on to play in both the '74 and '78 tournaments. In total, he played 96 official matches for the Seleção, scoring 26 goals.

His 474 games for Corinthians, though, did not bring any state championship success. In 1974, following a defeat to Palmeiras in the final of that tournament, for which he was blamed, he decided to move on from the club.

Later, with Fluminense, Rivellino would go on to win Carioca state titles in 1975 and 1976, before moving to Al-Hilal and claiming a Saudi championship title in the 1978-79 season.

He holds the distinction of having been the idol of a young Diego Maradona, who later went on to achieve footballing greatness himself.

12: Carlos Alberto Torres

Pictured in his time as Flamengo coach, Carlos Alberto became known simply as "O Capitão" for his leadership of the Brazilian national team in success at the World Cup of 1970.

It was at that tournament that the flying wing-back wrote his name into footballing history, having been a shock omission four-years prior. In the final, with just minutes to go, he scored a goal that is considered by many to be the greatest ever scored in World Cup competition.

Visit these web pages to watch this GOAL!

01] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to054UlFA18

02] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZkR5Wb2KQs

Although he came through at Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro, it was at Santos where Carlos Alberto would celebrate his biggest triumphs at club level

In eight years at Pelé's side, he won a South American Super Cup, two Brazilian championships and five state titles—although he never achieved Copa Libertadores glory.

While Nilton Santos started the transition, it was Carlos Alberto who refined fully the new wing-back role.

Due to the level of his success in the position in 1970, he quickly became the model on which many of the world's best wing-backs since have based their game.

No. 11: Nilton Santos

Another iconic player to have emerged from Rio de Janeiro's famous Botafogo club, Nilton Santos was a twice World Cup winner in 1958 and 1962.

Beginning in 1950, the left full-back would be selected for four consecutive tournaments, winning a grand total of 75 official caps for his nation. He would also win one South American championship.

He is also famed for helping to redefine the role of a full-back.

A converted forward, Nilton Santos was one of the first full-backs to push forward while in attack and is often regarded as being influential in creating the later concept of a wing-back.

With Botafogo he would win four state championships, as well as two national titles (Torneio Roberto Gomes Pedrosa), but it was perhaps his role in guiding a young Garrincha that was his biggest contribution to the club.

Eight years Garrincha's senior, the young star is said to have revered Nilton and the duo became close friends off the pitch. For all Garrincha's issues with alcohol, he is said never to have touched a drop in front of his elder colleague.

10: Gérson

Another of the victorious 1970 World Cup squad, Gérson achieved global fame as the creative hub of that illustrious side.

Known as the "Golden left foot," Gérson was renowned for his ability to pass the ball with incredible accuracy. As a child, he had first learned his trade on the beach, before becoming an early convert to futsal.

He began his career at Flamengo, turning professional in 1959, and was called to the Brazil 1960 Olympic side the following year. During his time at the club, he won one Rio-São Paulo tournament and one state championship.

In 1963, though, he moved to the great Botafogo side of Garrincha, Didi and Zagallo. It was at the club that his career truly took off, winning a Copa do Brasil and two state titles.

It was also at this time when he was called to play a major role in the Brazilian national team, even if the 1966 World Cup ultimately turned out to be a disappointment.

In 1970, though, everything would come together. With Clodoaldo sitting deeper, he would form part of Brazil's golden forward line, also containing Tostão, Rivellino, Jairzinho and Pelé. His performances rightfully earned him a place in the Team of the Tournament.

9: Ronaldinho

A World Cup winner in 2002, Ronaldinho is the first player on our list to enjoy his biggest achievements at club level outside of Brazil. It was, instead, on the coast on eastern Spain at FC Barcelona that the Porto Alegre-born playmaker would shine brightest.

For a period of time in the early 2000s, he was the best player on the planet and, at stages, seemingly by some distance. In his five years at the Camp Nou, two league titles and a solitary Champions League crown almost seem a disappointing return for the performance levels produced. He was that good.

At the 2002 World Cup, he had been the young support act to the experienced, world-leading talents of Ronaldo and Rivaldo. By 2006, it was he who was the main attraction. That tournament, though, was a major disappointment for a much-hyped Brazil side.

The FIFA World Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005, Ronaldinho unfortunately could not maintain those standards and, in 2011 at the age of 30, he made an early return to Brazilian football.

The pace that once terrorised Real Madrid at the Bernabéu may have deserted him, as his lifestyle choices took their toll, but his close control and eye for a pass remain.

In 2012, following a fine first season at Atlético Mineiro, he was named Best Player of the Brazilian Championship by *Placar* magazine.

Calls have since resurfaced for him to add to his 94 Brazil caps ahead of the 2014 World Cup and, with the return of Luiz Felipe Scolari as Brazil head coach, it may just happen.

8: Falcão

A three-time Brasileirão champion with Internacional, Falcão was a key member of the Brazil 1982 World Cup squad that thrilled a global audience under manager Telê Santana.

That side may not have won the tournament, but they captured the hearts and minds of a generation of football fans worldwide.

Falcão, playing his regular box-to-box midfield role in the Brazilian midfield, scored three times in five appearances at the event and was regarded as one of the stars of the tournament.

At the time, he was playing for Roma in Italy, where the Santa Catarina-born star had been christened the King of Rome for his impressive performances. In a five-year spell in the Italian capital, he helped the Giallorossi to two Coppa d'Italia titles, as well as a Serie A triumph in 1982-83.

A Brazil return came in 1985, where Falcão spent one final season in professional football with São Paulo, before moving on to pursue a career in football management.

There was, though, still time for a call-up to the Brazil squad for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico at the age of 33. Recovering from injury, he wouldn't start a single game at the tournament and he promptly retired following Brazil's quarter-final exit to France.

7: Romário

He may be no easy customer to deal with, but there is no doubting Romário's talent as a footballer. The Golden Ball winner at the 1994 World Cup, his five goals at the tournament were a major factor in Brazil's eventual fourth global success.

His career statistics of 55 goals in 70 fixtures for the Brazil national team show the extent of his importance to the Seleção during the 1990s. However, due to injury and indiscipline, he was limited to attending just two World Cup finals, as a reserve in 1990 and as the team's focal point in 1994.

At club level, Romário's footballing achievements have led to him becoming a fan favourite for three of Rio de Janeiro's big four sides—an unusual distinction.

While his claim to have scored 1000 goals in his career may be questionable, his seven Carioca state championship top-scorer crowns cannot be disputed, nor his three seasons as the Brazilian championship equivalent.

In Europe, Romário scored 128 goals in 140 games to help PSV Eindhoven to three Eredivisie titles between 1989-92, before

guiding Barcelona to the 1993-4 Spanish league title with 30 goals in 33 appearances.

To add to his World Cup triumph of the same year, Romário was also named FIFA World Player of the Year in 1994. He became the first Brazilian to win the award following its conception in 1991.

No. 6: Jairzinho

15 OF 20

A No. 10 by trade, 1970 World Cup winner Jairzinho is remembered primarily as a right-winger for Brazil.

That said, Jairzinho's position was never quite defined, as Zagallo points out. He began his Botafogo career in 1959 as a makeshift centre-forward, moved to the right-wing, before eventually maturing into his second-striker role.

At international level, it was a similar story. In 1966, he was moved to the left to accommodate club teammate Garrincha. In 1970, he finished as top-scorer and, although starting from the right, filled in as the team's main striker. In 1974, it was the right-flank that called once more for the forward.

It was the 1970 tournament, though, that cemented Jairzinho's status among the greats. Seven goals in six games saw Jairzinho named the "Hurricane of the Cup," having scored in each of his side's fixtures.

At club level, Jairzinho was part of a Botafogo side who won two state championships in the 1960s. He then moved briefly to

Marseille, before quickly returning to Brazil with Cruzeiro where he won the Copa Libertadores title in 1976.

He also enjoyed spells in Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador late in his career.

It was his pace that set him apart from most, while his excellent dribbling made him nearly impossible to dispossess. Often overlooked, though, was his ability to pick the right pass to find a colleague.

By the time of his official international retirement in 1982, Jairzinho had scored 33 times in 81 games for Brazil.

No. 5: Sócrates

There was much more to Sócrates than just footballing ability, and plenty has been written in that respect since his sad passing in December 2011. As a footballer, though, he was simply phenomenal.

The 6'4" attacking midfielder was incredibly graceful for a man of his physical stature and, with terrific passing ability off both feet, was an excellent distributor of the ball from central areas.

He is famed for his use of the backheel pass, a previously seldom-used technique which he employed to great effect. His terrific ball-striking also made him a threat from both open play and set-pieces—a wonderful example of which can be seen in his strike against the USSR from the 1982 World Cup.

At club level, he became greatly associated with Corinthians, spending six successful years at the Parque São Jorge. However, Fiorentina, Flamengo and Santos fans all also hold fond memories of the former Brazil captain.

Both on and off the pitch, Sócrates was a leader and his impassioned views on issues outside of football earned him a reputation as a deep thinker in all areas of life.

He would go on to represent Brazil once more in 1986, where he famously took his penalties with no run-up. However, it would be his influential role in the 1982 side that would forever be remembered as the pinnacle of his career.

Sócrates played 60 official games for his country, scoring on 22 occasions.

4: Zico

Another of the revered 1982 generation, Zico was making waves in Rio de Janeiro with Flamengo from an early age.

At just 18, having been put on a regime to bulk up early, he helped the side to both the 1971 Copa Libertadores and Intercontinental Cup titles. He would go on to win seven state titles and four Brazilian championships over two spells totaling 16 years at the club.

In total, he played over 800 times for the Rubro-Negro and scored in excess of 500 goals.

For Brazil, the story was little different. Having broken into the Seleção in 1976, Zico would alternate with Mendonça for a starting position at the 1978 World Cup. Four years later, though, he was fully installed as the central playmaker for his side.

While Brazil's memorable challenge in 1982 ended in disappointment, Zico scored four times in his five appearances and was named in FIFA All-Star Team of the Tournament.

Like so many of his colleagues, Zico would also attempt the 1986 tournament, but was far from fully fit as his side fell to defeat against France in the quarter-finals.

Late in his career, the diminutive playmaker moved to Japan and was integral in the development of the sport in the Asian country. He would later also manage the Japan national side.

Zico was famed for his skill and finishing prowess, as well as his set-piece delivery. It was his wonderful vision, though, that set him apart from his rivals.

Although he is fourth on our list, there are many in Brazil who hold him second only to Pelé in the Brazilian hierarchy.

3: Ronaldo

Had it not been for injury, there is no doubt that Ronaldo would be even higher on this list than he is. Considering his woes, it is remarkable even that he achieved as much as he did.

By the age of 21, heading into the France '98 tournament, Ronaldo had already scored over 200 career goals across four countries, won a World Cup in 1994, and twice been crowned FIFA World Player of the Year.

At that tournament, he was the star attraction. Brazil were deprived of Romário through injury, but the likes of Bebeto, Rivaldo and Edmundo were all playing second-fiddle to the Rio de Janeiro-born youngster.

Ronaldo would finish the tournament with a Golden Ball, for the competition's best player, and four-goals to his name. However, the tournament would ultimately leave an unhappy memory for the striker, having suffered a fit prior to the final and failed to perform when eventually named in the starting lineup.

He had, of course, already won a World Cup title as a 17-year-old in 1994. However, having not featured in that tournament, he was still searching for his defining moment on the biggest of all footballing stages.

That moment arrived in 2002. Following three years of almost constant absence through injury, Ronaldo returned with a bang to score eight goals at the tournament and secure a fifth title for his country.

His two goals to defeat Germany in the final will be remembered as one of the truly iconic moments in footballing history, as Ronaldo banished his own personal pain of France '98 to secure his place among the greats of the game.

In 2006, despite not enjoying the best of tournaments in a faltering Brazil side, Ronaldo added three more World Cup goals to his tally. His final effort, against Ghana, saw him become the tournament's greatest scorer of all-time, with 15 goals to his name.

In total, Ronaldo made 98 appearances for Brazil, scoring 62 times.

2: Garrincha

To complete our collection of Botafogo greats in this Top 20, we have Garrincha—the greatest of all the club's former players.

He would only join the Carioca club at the age of 20, having won his place in a training session where he famously nutmegged the club's star defender Nilton Santos. It was a beginning of a close bond between the pair.

Garrincha became the hero of the people, with his collection of tricks and feints greatly entertaining the adoring masses. He suffered from a bent right-leg following surgery to correct physical deformities from birth, but it did not affect his ability to run at speed with a football.

His abilities took the global stage by storm, with Garrincha voted into the Team of the Tournament at the 1958 World Cup, before being elected Player of the Tournament four years later. Brazil, of course, won both competitions.

While Pelé is generally remembered as the most complete player of all time, Garrincha often overshadowed his colleague with his impudent displays from the right flank. As opponents frequently commented, you could never tell what he would do next.

As Brazil lost against Hungary at the 1966 World Cup, Garrincha suffered his first ever international defeat in his 50th international appearance. With Pelé absent that day, it remains

a fact that the Seleção never lost a fixture in which both stars featured. A phenomenal achievement.

1: Pelé

"My name is Ronald Reagan, I'm the President of the United States of America. But you don't need to introduce yourself, because everyone knows who Pele is." - Ronald Reagan

"The greatest player in history was Di Stefano. I refuse to classify Pele as a player. He was above that." - Ferenc Puskas

Arguments as to the greatest of all-time will rage on forever. However, in comparison with his rivals for the honour, we can surely say without doubt that Pelé was the most complete player that football has ever seen.

He had the technical ability to beat players one-on-one, his eye for a pass has been praised by all those he partnered, his prowess in the air is legendary and there can, of course, be no argument over his ability to finish given his goal record.

At the age of 17, Pelé became the youngest player to feature in a World Cup final in 1958. He scored on six occasions in the Sweden-based tournament, including a semi-final hat-trick and two more in the final.

It was to be the first of three World Cup triumphs.

In 1962, Garrincha would carry the mantle for his side as Pelé recovered from an injury suffered in the Group Stage. Brazil, though, were victorious once again. The 1966 tournament would not be so successful, with Pelé once more suffering from injury as Brazil suffered a first-round exit.

Pelé was coerced into returning for a fourth tournament in 1970 and was part of one of the best attacking units ever compiled—alongside Jairzinho, Rivellino and Gérson.

While Jairzinho top-scored, Pelé added four more to his World Cup tally and, of course, claimed his third winner's medal. He remains Brazil's highest goal scorer of all-time with 77 goals in 92 appearances.

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Source:

https://bleacherreport.com/articles/1485218-pele-and-the-20-greatest-brazilian-footballers-of-all-time

Also, visit to see the images:

https://www.google.com/search?q=brazilian+footballers&sxsrf=ALiCzsbwCZirTBNuKlKW8mWL4040gUMi6A:1668052183232&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjzreTO2qL7AhXmaGwGHfPJDw8Q_AUoAXoECAIQAw&biw=1440&bih=732&dpr=1

PELE – Honours, *et al*

[A] Ballon d'Or Awards

Pele has "won" more Ballon d'Ors than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo, the Brazilian legend claiming seven of the annual awards that mark the world's best player.

We might think that Messi holds the all-time record with six, ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's five. But according to France Football, who organise the Ballon d'Or, Pele is on seven awards and leading the pack. Let us explain!

Until 1995, only European footballers were eligible to win the Ballon d'Or. Pretty unfair, so France Football changed that rule and opened up the award to truly honour the world's best.

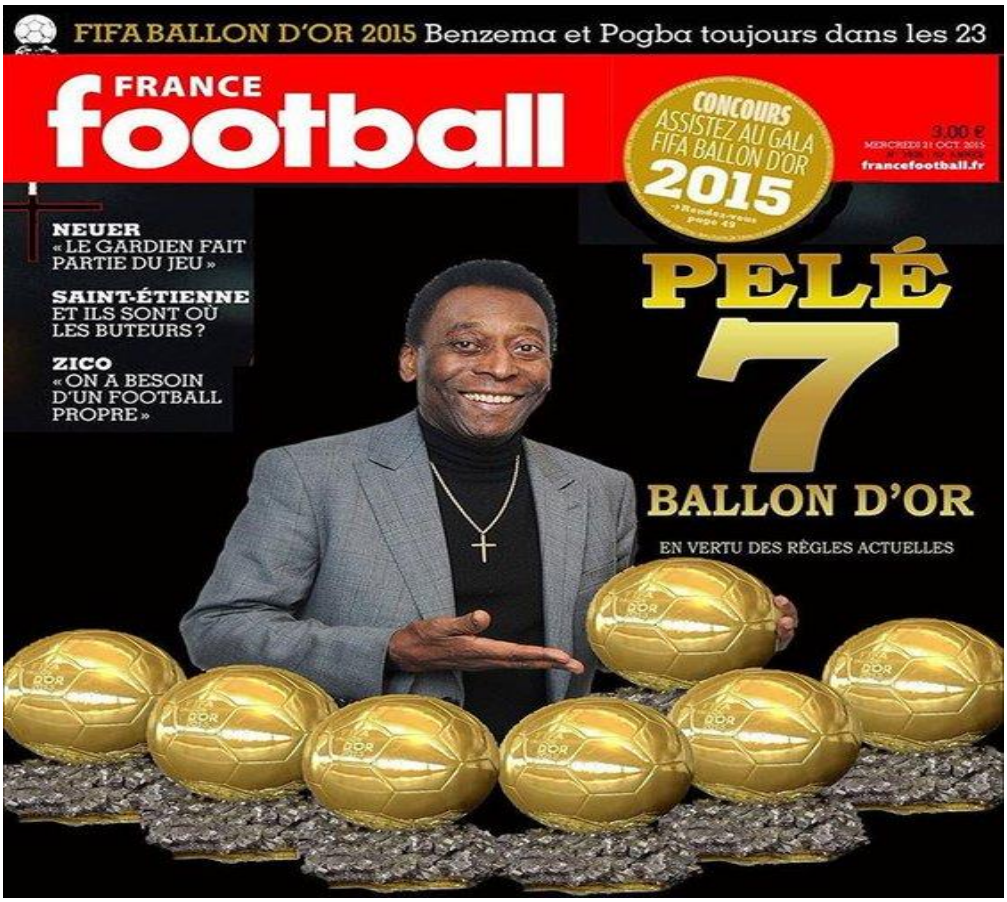
Then in 2016, they went back and did an "international re-evaluation" to calculate who *should* have won the Ballon d'Or had it always been global - and retrospectively gave Pele seven: for 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1970.

Le nouveau palmarès (internationalized reevaluation)

Year	Original winner	Alternative
1958	Raymond Kopa	Pelé
1959	Alfredo Di Stéfano	Pelé
1960	Luis Suárez	Pelé
1961	Omar Sívori	Pelé
1962	Josef Masopust	Garrincha
1963	Lev Yashin	Pelé
1964	Denis Law	Pelé
1970	Gerd Müller	Pelé
1978	Kevin Keegan	Mario Kempes
1986	Igor Belanov	Diego Maradona
1990	Lothar Matthäus	Diego Maradona
1994	Hristo Stoichkov	Romário

They only did this in years when a non-European player deserved to win overall. As a result, Diego Maradona (twice), Romario, Mario Kempes and Garrincha joined Pele on the honorary winners list.

France Football even printed a magazine cover of Pele with his golden trophies and the headline: "**Pele 7 Ballon d'Ors**" - which seems pretty clear-cut.


FIFA BALLON D'OR 2015 Benzema et Pogba toujours dans les 23
FRANCE football
CONCOURS ASSISTEZ AU GALA FIFA BALLON D'OR 2015
francefootball.fr
NEUER «LE GARDIEN FAIT PARTIE DU JEU»
SAINT-ÉTIENNE ET ILS SONT OÙ LES BUTEURS ?
ZICO «ON A BESOIN D'UN FOOTBALL PROPRE»
PELÉ
7
BALLON D'OR
EN VERTU DES RÈGLES ACTUELLES

[B] Foreign football players with honorary British honours

Anybody in the UK can make a recommendation for a British national to receive an honour. However, the Foreign Office does also recommend honorary awards for foreign nationals to be approved by His Majesty The King. Currently there are five non-UK footballers to receive honorary British honours:

- **Henrik Larsson** MBE (honorary)
- **Pelé** KBE (honorary)
- **Niall Quinn** MBE (honorary)
- **Peter Schmeichel** MBE (honorary)
- **Gianfranco Zola** OBE (honorary)

[C] Brazil's Maracana Stadium

Brazil's Maracana Stadium to be renamed after football legend following Rio de Janeiro state legislature vote.

Rio de Janeiro's state legislature voted to rename the Maracana after Pele; 'Rei' translates from Portuguese as king; name change honours one of football's greatest ever players

Brazil's world-famous Maracana Stadium is set to get a new name, after the Rio de Janeiro state legislature voted on Tuesday to change its official title to the Edson Arantes do Nascimento - Rei Pele Stadium.

The 80-year-old Pele, whose full name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, played at the stadium many times for Brazil and scored his 1,000th goal there in 1969 - for Santos against local club Vasco da Gama.

"It is a worthy homage to a man who is recognised the world over for his legacy in Brazilian football and for the corresponding services rendered to our country," the deputy responsible for the project said. 'Rei' means 'king' in Portuguese.

The stadium, host of the final match in the 1950 and 2014 World Cup tournaments, as well as the opening ceremony of the 2016 Olympics, has long been named after Mario Filho, a journalist who lobbied for its construction in the 1940s.

[D] FIFA Player of the Century

FIFA Player of the Century was a one-off award created by FIFA to decide the greatest football player of the 20th century, announced at the annual FIFA World gala, held in Rome on 11 December 2000. Diego Maradona and Pelé were joint winners of the award.

Since 1955, FIFA has had awards for FIFA World Player of the Year and they decided to bring in the new millennium by conducting a public vote to decide the "**FIFA Player of the Century**". This was to be decided by votes on their official website, their official magazine, and a grand jury. Maradona won the Internet-based poll by wide margins, garnering 53.6% of the votes against 18.53% for Pelé. Despite the fact that Eusébio, who played football professionally during Pelé's era, placed third in the poll, many observers complained that the Internet nature of the poll would have meant a skewed demographic of younger fans who would have seen Maradona play, but not Pelé. As a result, FIFA decided to add a second poll and appointed a "Football Family" committee composed of football journalists, officials, and coaches, who voted Pelé the best player of the century with 72.75% of the vote, thus both were joint winners of the award.

(a) FIFA Internet vote

The results of FIFA's internet Poll were as follows:

	Player	Nationality	Percentage
1	Diego Maradona	Argentina	53.60%
2	Pele	Brazil	18.53%
3	Eusebio	Portugal	6.21%
4	Roberto Baggio	Italy	5.42%
5	Romário	Brazil	1.69%

6	Marco van Basten	Netherlands	1.57%
7	Ronaldo	Brazil	1.55%
8	Franz Beckenbauer	Germany	1.50%
9	Zinedine Zidane	France	1.34%
10	Rivaldo	Brazil	1.19%
11	Zico	Brazil	1.15%
12	Garrincha	Brazil	1.08%
13	Johan Cruyff	Netherlands	0.87%
14	Alfredo Di Stéfano	Argentina	0.68%
15	Michel Platini	France	0.58%
16	Bobby Charlton	England	0.39%
17	Ferenc Puskás	Hungary	0.37%
18	Lothar Matthäus	Germany	0.37%
19	Lev Yashin	Soviet Union	0.36%
20	George Best	Northern Ireland	0.32%

(b)FIFA Magazine and Grand Jury vote

This part of the award was decided by the FIFA Magazine readers vote and the FIFA Grand Jury.

	Player	Nationality	Percentage
1	Pelé	Brazil	72.75%
2	Alfredo Di Stéfano	Argentina	9.75%
3	Diego Maradona	Argentina	6.0%
4	Franz Beckenbauer	Germany	2.5%
5	Johan Cruyff	Netherlands	2.0%
	George Best	Northern Ireland	2.0%
7	Roberto Baggio	Italy	1.0%
	Garrincha	Brazil	1.0%
	Zico	Brazil	1.0%
	Michel Platini	France	1.0%
	Gerd Müller	Germany	1.0%

[E] Football Player of the Century

In 1999 France Football consulted former Ballon d'Or winners to elect the Football Player of the Century. 30 out of the 34 former Ballon d'Or winners from 1956 to 1999 voted, with 17 of these giving the highest votes to Brazilian Pelé,

who received the almost twice as many points as the second place getter Maradona.

[F] Citizen of the World

In 1977, the United Nations proclaimed him a "***Citizen of the World***".

[G] Sportsman of the Century

In 2000, Pelé was named second in the BBC's "**Sportsman of the Century**" award. Boxing legend Muhammad Ali came first.

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WORLD CUP

@ Qatar 2022

The match was played at Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar, on 18 December 2022 and was contested by Argentina and France. The final took place in front of 88,966 fans, and was refereed by Szymon Marciniak from Poland.

Argentina led 2–0 at half-time, but a hat-trick for France by Kylian Mbappé and an additional goal for Argentina by Lionel Messi left the match tied 3–3 after extra time. Argentina won the ensuing penalty shoot-out 4–2 to earn their third FIFA World Cup title and first since 1986. The final has since been widely regarded as the greatest World Cup final of all time, and one of the greatest matches in the history of the sport.

Journey to FINAL

Argentina's route to the Final

	Opponent	Result
1	Saudi Arabia	1–2
2	Mexico	2–0
3	Poland	2–0
R16	Australia	2–1
QF	Netherlands	2–2 (a.e.t.) (4–3 p)
SF	Croatia	3–0

France's route to the Final

	Opponent	Result
1	Australia	4–1
2	Denmark	2–1
3	Tunisia	0–1
R16	Poland	3–1
QF	England	2–1
SF	Morocco	2–0

Visit to know the details:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_FIFA_World_Cup_final

Argentina

The champions of the 2022 FIFA World Cup

[18 Dec 2022]

Penalty Shootouts

MONTIEL SCORES. **FRA 2-4 ARG**
KOLO MUANI SCORES. **FRA 2-3 ARG**
PAREDES SCORES. **FRA 1-3 ARG**
TCHOUAMENI MISSES!! **FRA 1-2 ARG**
DYBALA COMES IN AND SCORES. **FRA 1-2 ARG**
Coman is the next on the spot. EMI MARTINEZ SAVES **. FRA 1-1 ARG**
Messi comes in next. AND HE MAKES IT 1-1. FRA 1-1 ARG
Mbappe takes the first shot. AND HE SCORES. **FRA 1-0 ARG**

Visit to the see the Highlights

https://www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/watch/63XwuAOogYgNW0Q3E9PxJG

Lusail Stadium in Lusail, Qatar

[Capacity: 88966]

The king of football has left us but his legacy will never be forgotten. RIP KING ..‹‹‹ **Mbappa**

Rest in peace 'Rei', God bless all his family" ‹‹‹ **BRAZIL CAPTAIN THIAGO SILVA**

Before Pele, 10 was just a number. I've read this phrase somewhere, at some point in my life. But this sentence, beautiful, is incomplete. I would say before Pele football was just a sport. Pele has changed it all. He turned football into art, into entertainment He gave voice to the poor, to the blacks and especially: He gave visibility to Brazil. Soccer and Brazil have raised their status thanks to the King! He's gone but his magic remains. Pele is FOREVER!!
‹‹‹ **BRAZIL STRIKER NEYMAR**

Rest in peace, @pele. ‹‹‹ **Messi**

My deep condolences to all of Brazil, and in particular to the family of Edson Arantes do Nascimento. A mere "goodbye" to the eternal King Pele will never be enough to express the pain that the entire football world is currently embracing. An inspiration to so many millions, a reference yesterday, today and forever. The love you always showed me was reciprocated in every moment we shared even from distance. He will never be forgotten and his memory will live forever in each and every one of us football lovers. Rest in peace King Pele
‹‹‹ **PORTUGAL CAPTAIN CRISTIANO RONALDO**

"Pele was much more than the greatest sportsman of all time. The King of Soccer was the ultimate exponent of a victorious Brazil, never afraid of any difficulty. A black, poor boy born in Tres Coracoes, Pele showed us that there is always a new path. He promised his father he would win a World Cup and he won us three, in addition to scoring 95 goals in 113 games with Brazil's national team. The King gave us a new Brazil and we can only thank him for his legacy. Thank you, Pele."
‹‹‹ **BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION**

"A legend, icon and true great of the game who will forever be remembered. Rest in peace, Pele."
‹‹‹ **LIVERPOOL FC**

29 December 2022

ISBN 978-93-95054-16-4